



Monthly Current Affairs Compilation

**for UPSC & PCS Exams
September 2018**

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Daily Current Affairs for UPSC IAS Preparation

01.09.2018

1. Environment Minister Releases India's National Redd+ Strategy

Related Information

REDD

- REDD means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation".
- First negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2005.
- It is the collaborative programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Its main objective is to reduce greenhouse gases.

REDD+

- REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
- REDD+ aims to achieve climate change mitigation by incentivizing forest conservation.

National REDD+ Strategy

- It has been prepared by Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.
- It will further supplement India's commitment of the 2015 Paris agreement.
- Under it, Green Skill Development programme will be launched.
- The National REDD+ Strategy will soon be communicated to the UNFCCC.

Topic-GS-3- Conservation

Source-PIB

2. HRD Ministry introduces Atal ranking for institutions to promote innovation.

Related information

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARRIA).

- Named after former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It will be launched on 15th October, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former President APJ Abdul Kalam.
- To promote a culture of innovation and research in higher education.
- ARIIA will rank educational institutions for innovation output based on all major indicators and parameters used globally.

Topic-GS-2- Human Resource Development

Source-PIB

3. INS Sahyadri reaches Australia for Exercise KAKADU 2018

Related Information

- Exercise KAKADU, which started in 1993.
- It is a premier multilateral regional maritime engagement.
- Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- It is held biennially in Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise Areas (NAXA).
- KAKADU 2018, the fourteenth edition of the exercise.
- It would see participation from 23 warships, one submarine, 45 aircraft, 250 marines and approximately 52 foreign staff from over 25 different countries.

NOTE-

- Exercise KAKADU derives its name from Kakadu National Park, which is a protected area in the northern territory of Australia, 171 km south-east of Darwin.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral engagements.

Source- Economic Times

4. MoU signed between Department of Biotechnology and International Energy Agency on Enhancing Innovation for the Clean Energy Transition

Related Information

The International Energy Agency (IEA)

- IEA is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization.

- Established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
- India is not a member of IEA.

NOTE-

- Only the OECD member states can become members of the IEA.
- Except for Chile, Iceland, Israel, and Slovenia, all OECD member states are members of the IEA.
- In 2014, Estonia joined the IEA and became its 29th member.
- Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Singapore and Thailand are the associate members of IEA.
- It publishes the World Energy Outlook.

Topic-GS-2- Important international institutions

Source-PIB

5. Law Commission's report on the wrongful prosecution

Key Highlights of the report:

- The Commission has recommended the enactment of a specific legal provision for redressal of cases of wrongful prosecution.
- To provide relief to the victims of wrongful prosecution in terms of monetary and non-monetary compensation (such as counselling, mental health services, vocational / employment skills development etc.) within a statutory framework.
- The report enumerates the core principles of the recommended framework- defining 'wrongful prosecution' i.e., cases in which claim for compensation can be filed, designation of a Special Court to decide these claims of compensation, nature of proceedings.
- Timeline for deciding the claim, etc., financial and other factors to be considered while determining the compensation, provisions for interim compensation in certain cases, removal of disqualification on account of wrongful prosecution/conviction etc.

Related Information
Wrongful Prosecution

- The wrongful prosecution is identified as 'miscarriage of justice' that takes place after a person has been wrongfully convicted but is later found to be factually innocent basis a new fact/proof coming to light.
- It would include both the cases where the person spent time in prison as well as where he did not.

NOTE-

- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ('ICCPR', ratified by India)** also creates an obligation on the State parties to enact a law to compensate the victims of such miscarriage of justice.

Topic-GS-2-Statutory Bodies in India

Source-PIB

6. The 21st All India Review Meeting on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) recently held

Related information

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)

- Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a scheme formulated on 23rd December 1993.
- It provides that each member of parliament of India has the choice to suggest to the Head of the District works to the tune of ₹5 crore per year, to be taken up in his/her constituency.
- Initially, this scheme was administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Later, in October 1994, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has been looking into its working.
- Elected Members of Rajya Sabha representing the whole of the State as they do, may select works for implementation in one or more district(s) as they may choose.
- Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may also select works for implementation in one or more districts, anywhere in the country.

- It also allows MPs to spend up to ₹10 lakh in any other constituency in India.

Topic-GS-2- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors

Source-PIB

7. Swadhar Greh

Related Information

Swadhar

- Swadhar –A Scheme for Women in Difficult Circumstances.
- It was launched by the Department of Women and Child Development.
- In 2015.
- The Scheme envisages providing shelter, food, clothing and health as well as economic and social security for these women
- It targets those women victims of difficult circumstances who are in need of institutional support for rehabilitation so that they could lead their life with dignity.
- Swadhar Greh is a DBT compliant scheme.

Topic-GS-1- Social Empowerment

Source-PIB

8. Law panel says uniform civil code not desirable now, reform family laws first.

Key Highlights:

- The Law Commission has taken a stand in favour of "equality 'within communities' between men and women" (personal law reform), "rather than 'equality between' communities" (UCC).
- It said that the Uniform Civil Code is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage.
- It cited Sati, the devadasi, triple talaq and child marriage as examples of 'social evils' under the garb of religious customs.
- The Commission has held that a Parsi woman should be allowed to retain her identity even if she marries outside the community and that their children should be allowed to inherit if they choose Zoroastrianism, and not their father's religion.

- It has recommended for a 'Muslim Code of Inheritance and Succession', applicable to both Sunnis and the Shias, so that succession and inheritance be based on 'proximity to the deceased rather than preference to male agnates heirs'.
- The Commission includes compulsory marriage registration, rectifying the inequality in the age of consent for marriage (18 for girls 21 for boys) as it 'simply contributes to the stereotype that wives must be younger than their husbands.
- Allowing transgender persons to adopt.
- Introduction of a new grounds for 'no-fault' divorce, taking 'best interest of the child' as the basis for matters of custody and defining the rights of persons with disabilities within marriage.

Topic-GS-1- Social Empowerment

Source- The Indian Express

03.09.2018

1. Kathmandu Declaration

- It was announced in the 4th BIMSTEC summit.

Key Points:

- Strong commitment to combat terrorism
- Prevent the financing of terrorists and terrorist actions from territories under their control.
- Blocking recruitment and cross-border movement of terrorists.
- Countering radicalization.
- Countering misuse of the internet for purposes of terrorism and dismantling terrorist safe havens.
- Underlined the importance of multidimensional connectivity.

Related Information

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- BIMSTEC is a regional organization.
- The countries lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal are its members.
- Came into being on 6th June 1997.

- Through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It constitutes seven Member States:
 1. Bangladesh
 2. Bhutan
 3. India
 4. Nepal
 5. Sri Lanka
 6. Myanmar
 7. Thailand

Topic-GS-2- Important international institutions

Source- The Hindu

2. India and Pakistan have agreed to undertake the Indus Waters Treaty mandated tours.

- Both sides to resolve issues on the various hydroelectric projects, including the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai in Jammu and Kashmir.

Related Information

Indus Water Treaty

- India and Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960.
- After nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory.
- Under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty 1960:
 - (a) Waters of the eastern rivers- Sutlej, Beas and Ravi- had been allocated to India
 - (b) Western rivers- the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab- to Pakistan, except for certain non-consumptive uses for India.

The Pakal Dul Dam

- The Pakal Dul Dam is a proposed concrete-face rock-fill dam on the Marusadar River, a tributary of the Chenab River, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is 1000 MW hydroelectric power generation project.
- It will divert water to the south into power station on the reservoir of the Dul Hasti Dam, on the Chenab.
- Pakistan, who relies on the Chenab downstream, views the dam as a violation of the Indus Water Treaty, whereas India states it is as per Treaty Provisions.

Lower Kalnai

- On Lower Kalnai Nalla, a tributary of river Chenab, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is 43 MW hydroelectric power generation project.

Topic-GS-1- Water disputes

Source- Tribune

3. 4th International Ayurveda Congress

- International Ayurveda Congress is a joint effort of three organizations:
 - (a) The International Maharishi Ayurveda Foundation, from The Netherlands
 - (b) The All India Ayurvedic Congress, New Delhi.
 - (c) The International Academy of Ayurveda, Pune.
- These International Congresses are held regularly, at least **once in two years**.
- It aims to establish Ayurveda as the most ancient, scientific and holistic health care system, which is capable of leading the world towards an increasingly disease-free society.
- Previous Congress:
 - (a) 2010 -Klagenfurt, Austria.
 - (b) 2015- Roermond, the Netherlands.
 - (c) 2017- London, United Kingdom.
 - (d) 2018- The Netherlands.

Topic-GS-2- Important international organizations

Source- AIR

4. Astronomers capture the clearest image yet of 'monster galaxy' 12 billion light years from Earth.

- The 'monster galaxy' is around 12 billion light years from Earth.
- It gives birth to new stars around 1,000 times faster than our own galaxy, the Milky Way.
- It has been christened 'COSMOS-AzTEC-1'.
- The scientists used the ALMA Observatory in Chile to capture observations the galaxy with a resolution 10 times greater than any previous effort.

NOTE

- The Milky Way has a single, thick core with spiral arms stretching outwards.
- But COSMOS-AzTEC-1 has three cores – or two smaller cores that exist with their own discs many light years away from the centre one.
- In a normal galaxy, the gravity pushing inwards and pressure pushing outwards are balanced.

- But this one is experiencing a massive gravitational collapse that is probably what's causing its fast-paced star formation.

Related information

The Atacama Large Millimeter/ submillimeter Array (ALMA) Observatory

- ALMA is an astronomical interferometer of radio telescopes in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile.
- The array has been constructed on the Chajnantor plateau at an elevation of 5,000m.
- It consists of 66 radio telescopes.
- ALMA is an international partnership among Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Chile.
- It is the most expensive ground-based telescope in operation.
- ALMA is expected to provide insight on star birth during the early universe and detailed imaging of local star and planet formation.

Topic-GS-3- Awareness in Space

Source- Forbes

5. Govt comes out with draft rules for e-pharmacies to regulate online sale of medicines.

Key Highlights:

- For regulating the online sale of medicines across the country.
- It aims at providing patients access to genuine drugs from authentic online portals.
- It states that no person will distribute or sell, stock, exhibit or offer for sale of drugs through the e-pharmacy portal unless registered.
- Any person who intends to conduct the business of e-pharmacy shall apply for the grant of registration to the Central Licensing Authority through the online portal of the Central Government.
- However, the sale of tranquillisers, psychotropic drugs, narcotics and habit-forming drugs have been prohibited through these portals.

Topic -GS- 2- Governments interventions on various sectors

Source- AIR

6. For the first time, Census 2021 to collect data on OBCs

- It comes after implementation of 27% reservation for OBCs on the basis of Mandal Commission's recommendations.
- The data was collected in the 1931 census.
- The decennial exercise will involve 25 lakh trained enumerators and the use of "maps/georeferencing at the time of house listing.

NOTE-

- The Census Organization was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census till the 1951 Census when the Census Act was enacted in 1948 to provide for the scheme of conducting population census with duties and responsibilities of census officers.

Topic-GS- 1- Social Empowerment

Source- The Hindu

7. China-Maldives Friendship Bridge

- It is the first cross-sea bridge to be built in the Maldives.
- The bridge is an iconic project of the Maldives and China in co-building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.
- The 2-km bridge connects capital Male and neighbouring Hulhule island where the Maldives' main international airport is located.
- The bridge has made it possible for locals and tourists to transit between the two islands on land within five minutes.

Topic- GS2-International Relations

Source- The Telegraph

8. Union Home Minister chairs first review meeting of Department of Official Language.

- The Department of Official Language was set up in June 1975 as an independent Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

NOTE-

- The department has developed a computer software called "Kanthasth" for translating the all kinds of official files from English to Hindi and vice versa to make the translation work simpler and quicker.

- An E-learning platform called the “Pravah” also being developed by the department for use in 16 Indian languages including English. Anybody can learn Hindi through his mother tongue with the help of this E-learning platform.

Topic-GS-2- Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

Source-PIB

9. Justice Ranjan Gogoi to be next Chief Justice of India

- Justice Ranjan Gogoi is set to take over as the new Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- He will replace incumbent CJI Justice Dipak Misra (will retire on 1st October 2018).
- Justice Gogoi will be sworn in as CJI (46th) on October 3, 2018, and will hold the post till 17th November 2019.

Note:

- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the head of the judiciary of India and the Supreme Court of India.
- As head of the supreme court, the chief justice is responsible for the allocation of cases and appointment of constitutional benches which deal with important matters of law.
- Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides for the manner of appointing judges to the Supreme Court.

04.09.2018

1. Cyprus reaffirms its support to India for its NSG membership; its claim for being inducted as the permanent member of UNSC

- India and Cyprus have expressed concern over the threat of terrorism and called for the early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations.

Related information

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

- NSG is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries.

- It seeks to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- The NSG was founded in response to the Indian nuclear test in May 1974 and first met in November 1975.
- It has also been referred to as the London Group, or the London Suppliers Group.
- The NSG Chair for 2018-2019 is Latvia.
- NSG has 48 participating governments.
- Both India and Pakistan are not its member.

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

- Commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT.
- It is an international treaty.
- The objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
- It has three pillars:
 1. Non-proliferation.
 2. Disarmament.
 3. The right to peacefully use nuclear technology.
- It was signed in 1st July 1968 and became effective from 5th March 1970.
- Located in Moscow, Russia; London, UK; Washington DC, United States.
- It has 190 members.

NOTE-

- Four UN member states have never accepted the NPT, three of which are thought to possess nuclear weapons: India, Israel, and Pakistan.
- In addition, South Sudan, founded in 2011, has not joined.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- Charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Founded in 1945.

- The Security Council consists of fifteen members.
- The 5 permanent members are:
 1. The Russian Federation
 2. The United Kingdom
 3. France
 4. China
 5. The United States
- These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.
- The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms.
- The body's presidency rotates monthly among its member.

Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism

- The Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a proposed treaty which intends to criminalize all of international terrorism and deny terrorists, their financiers and supporters access to funds, arms, and safe havens
- Currently, the negotiations of the Comprehensive Terrorism Convention are deadlocked because of differences over the definition of terrorism.
- India proposed this convention in 1996 and has since demanded consistently, especially in the wake of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- India further pressed for the adoption of CCIT following the July 2016 Dhaka attack.

Topic-GS-2- Important international institutions, agencies.

Source- AIR

2. India along with 23 other nations to participate in tsunami mock drill

Related Information

IOWave18

- IOWave18 exercise is being organised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, which coordinated the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) in the aftermath of December 2004 tsunami.

- The primary objective is to enhance tsunami preparedness at the community level.
- The purpose of the exercise is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout the region.

Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC)

- ITEWC, based out of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.
- It is an autonomous institution.
- Under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It has been operational since October 2007.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO),

- IOC-UNESCO established in 1960 as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO.
- It is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system.
- The purpose of the commission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building.

Topic-GS-3- Disaster preparedness

Source- AIR

3. East Asia Summit (EAS)

Related information

East Asia Summit (EAS)

- EAS is an initiative of ASEAN and is based on the premise of the centrality of ASEAN.
- It has 18 members.
- EAS meetings are held after annual ASEAN leaders' meetings.
- The membership of EAS consists of:
 1. Ten ASEAN Member States (i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam)
 2. Australia
 3. China
 4. India
 5. Japan
 6. New Zealand
 7. Republic of Korea

8. Russian Federation
9. The USA.
- The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad.
- Summits:
 - (a) The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14th December 2005.
 - (b) 12th - 2017 - Pasay, Philippines.
 - (c) 13th - 2018 - Central Area, Singapore.
 - (d) 14th - 2019- Thailand.

Topic-GS-2-Important international institutions, agencies.

Source- AIR

4. For the first time in 9 years, RBI buys 8.46 tonne of gold

NOTE-

- Last time the apex bank purchased gold was in November 2009, when it had bought 200 tonnes of yellow metal from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Related Information

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution.
- It controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee.
- It commenced its operations on 1st April, 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The RBI plays an important part in the Development Strategy of the Government of India.
- It is a member bank of the Asian Clearing Union.
- Headquarters in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Topic-GS-3- Indian Economy

Source- The Hindu

5. Typhoon "Jebi"

- "Jebi" - whose name means "swallow" in Korean.
- It is the latest harsh weather to hit Japan.
- It is set to make landfall on **Shikoku, the smallest main island.**
- It is believed to cross the western part of the largest main island, Honshu, and Osaka, the nation's second-largest city.

Topic-GS-1- Important geographical phenomena

Source- The Hindu

6. National Nutrition Month is being celebrated across the country to mark the fight against malnutrition

- The Nutrition Month will also focus on adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers to eliminate the deficiencies prevailing in the Health sector.
- The decision to celebrate September as the National Nutrition Month every year was taken during the second meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges under the Poshan Abhiyaan.

Related Information

POSHAN Abhiyaan

- POSHAN Abhiyaan- the National Nutrition Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8th March, 2018 in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- With the aim to bring down the stunting of children in the age group of 0-6 years from 38 per cent to 25 per cent by 2022.
- It aims to reduce the level of under-nutrition and other related problems on nutrition-related issues.
- It also aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth rate.
- It is being supported by World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) for reaching out to all districts in the country by 2022

Topic-GS- 2-Issues related to health

Source- AIR

7. Ukraine launched joint military drills with NATO

- Ukraine launched joint military exercises with the United States and a string of other NATO.

Related Information

Rapid Trident military exercise

- The Rapid Trident exercises is held each year since 1996.

- It is designed to test and build Ukraine's interoperability with NATO allies and partners.

Topic-GS-3- Defense

Source- Business Standard

8. Bangkok climate intersession

- An interim climate intersession is scheduled to be held in Bangkok from September 4-9, 2018 before the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24) at Katowice in Poland this December.
- In Katowice, Parties have the mandate to finalise and adopt the "rule book" for implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Related information

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- The UNFCCC is an international environmental treaty.
- Adopted on 9th May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992.
- It then entered into force on 21 March 1994.
- The UNFCCC objective is to "stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system".
- It is non-binding treaty.
- Headquartered in New York City, New York, U.S.

Topic-GS-2- Important international institutions

Source- Down to earth

9. Several experimental drugs being tested in Congo to halt Ebola

Related Information

Ebola

- The disease was first identified in 1976.
- Near the Ebola River from which the disease takes its name.
- The outbreaks occur intermittently in tropical regions of sub-Saharan Africa.
- Ebola virus disease, in humans, is caused by four of five viruses of the genus Ebolavirus:
 1. Bundibugyo virus (BDBV)

2. Sudan virus (SUDV)
3. Tai Forest virus (TAFV)
4. Ebola virus (formerly Zaire Ebola virus)
5. Reston virus (RESTV)(is not thought to cause disease in humans, but has caused disease in other primates)

- Zaire ebolavirus is the most dangerous of the known EVD-causing viruses and is responsible for the largest number of outbreaks.
- Ebola disease spreads only by direct contact with the blood or other body fluids of a person who has developed symptoms of the disease.

NOTE

- Liberia first country to be declared Ebola-free.
- Sierra Leone was declared free of Ebola transmission and Guinea in 2015.

Topic-GS-2-Issues related to health

Source- Down to earth

05.09.2018

1. Mission Vidya

- Mission Vidya is a remedial teaching programme.
- It took place in Gujarat.
- It targeted more than 200,000 Class VI-VIII children with poor achievements in reading, writing and mathematics.
- The children received special attention for three hours every day, including one hour outside school hours.

Topic-GS-2- Issues relating to education.

Source- Livemint

2. Government launches Technology Initiatives for Coffee Stakeholders which would help farmers increase production and improve quality

Related Information

Coffee Connect

- It is India coffee field force app.
- It helps to harness the power of mobility comprising the latest technology.

- It will also help in transparency in the activities of the extension officers and officials.
- It has been developed by Coffee Board of India in association with National Institute for Smart Government (NISG).

Coffee Krishi Tharanga

- It is a digital mobile extension service for coffee stakeholders.
- Aimed increase productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.
- It is jointly developed by Coffee Board and Precision Agriculture for Development India Foundation (PADIF).
- It provided customised services support, 24 X 7.

NOTE

- The "Coffee KrishiTharanga" is pilot tested in the Chikmagalur and Hassan districts of Karnataka State and will be extended in a phased manner.
- NABARD has partly funded the Pilot project.

Coffee Board of India

- Coffee Board of India is an autonomous body.
- Established by an act of Parliament in 1942.
- Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Head Office is in Bangalore.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors.

Source-PIB

3. New Ganga clean-up law

Key Highlights

- The Bill calls for a National Ganga Council and a National Ganga Rejuvenation Authority to enforce the law and protect the river which flows over 2500 km.
- An armed Ganga Protection Corps (GPC); treating a slew of actions — from obstructing the flow to commercial fishing — as cognizable offences that may attract a prison term of up to three years and a fine of up to Rs 5 lakh.
- Cognizable offences marked in the draft Bill include:

1. Construction activities causing obstruction in the river- 2-year imprisonment or fine up to Rs 50 lakh or both.
 2. Withdrawal of groundwater for industrial or commercial consumption from the land fronting the river and its tributaries.
 3. Commercial fishing or aquaculture in the river and its tributaries- 2 years prison term or a fine of Rs 2 lakh or both.
 4. Discharging untreated or treated sewage into the river- 5-year prison term or a fine of Rs 50,000 per day or both.
- Ganga Protection Corps, an armed force "constituted and maintained" by the Central government.
 - GPC personnel will have powers to arrest those who pollute the river.
 - No person or municipal authority will establish or take any steps to set up any industrial or residential or commercial premises or structure which may result in the discharge of any sewage or trade effluent into the Ganga.

NOTE

- In 2016, a committee was constituted under a retired judge of the Allahabad High Court Justice Girdhar Malviya who had submitted a draft Bill last year named **The National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Bill, 2017.**

Topic-GS-3- Conversation, environment pollution and degradation

Source- Indian Express

4. Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Exercise KAZIND 2018

- KAZIND 2018 will be conducted between the Indian and Kazakhstan Army in Otar region, Kazakhstan.
- The aim is to build and promote bilateral Army to Army relations and exchange skills and experiences between Kazakhstan Army and the Indian Army.
- This is the third joint military exercise between the two countries.

NOTE

- The second edition of this exercise was held in India last year.
- Other military exercises between India and Kazakhstan:
 1. Prabal Dostyk
 2. Exercise Khanjar

Topic-GS-2- Defence

Source-PIB

5. International Women Entrepreneurs Summit gets underway in Nepal

- The theme of the 3-day event is "Equality begins with Economic Empowerment".
- The event is organised by the South Asian Women Development Forum.

Related Information

South Asian Women Development Forum(SAWDF)

- SAWDF is an autonomous, nonprofit organization.
- Based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- SAWDF was granted the status by the 36th Session of the SAARC Council Ministers.
- It is the first SAARC Recognized Body organisation, working on women entrepreneurs issues.
- SAWDF membership is based on organizations with extensive work around women's entrepreneurship.

Topic-GS-1- Social Empowerment

Source- DD News

6. Replacing injectables with bedaquiline will lead to improvement in treatment outcomes for patients with MDR-TB

- The World Health Organisation(WHO) made an important change in the regimen to treat patients with MDR-TB.
- All injectables are to be replaced with a fully oral regimen to treat MDR-TB patients.
- The powerful alternative drug, bedaquiline, has been included in the fully oral regimen.
- South Africa was the first country to scale up access to bedaquiline.

Related Information

Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)

- Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a form of tuberculosis (TB) infection.
- Caused by bacteria that are resistant to treatment.
- MDR-TB is resistant to at least two of the first-line drugs.

NOTE

Tuberculosis is caused by infection with the bacteria Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Topic-GS-2-Issues related to health

Source- The Hindu

7. Reserve Bank tightens the ombudsman scheme

- RBI has asked all commercial banks having 10 or more banking outlets to have an independent internal ombudsman (IO).
- For reviewing customer complaints that are either partly or fully rejected by the banks.

NOTE

- These instructions are not applicable for Regional Rural Banks sponsored by commercial banks.
- In terms of recommendations of **the Damodaran Committee** on banking ombudsman scheme, the Internal Ombudsman (IO) system was introduced.

Related Information

Banking Ombudsman

- Banking Ombudsman is a quasi-judicial authority.
- Under India's Banking Ombudsman Scheme 2006.
- The authority was created for resolving complaints of customers of banks relating to certain services rendered by the banks.
- It does not charge any fee in terms of filing complaints.

NOTE

- This year, the RBI had extended the scheme to Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) taking deposit.
- Appellate Authority, is headed by a Deputy Governor of the RBI, where people can take their complaints against the Banking Ombudsman.

Who is a Banking Ombudsman?

- The Banking Ombudsman is a senior official appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to redress customer complaints against deficiency in certain banking services covered under the grounds of complaint.
- As on date, twenty Banking Ombudsmen have been appointed

Internal Ombudsman (IO)

- IO is for strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism in banks.
- It helps to reduce the complaints being escalated to Banking Ombudsman.
- An IO can be removed only with prior approval of RBI.
- This scheme advises banks to give IO, a fixed term of 3 to 5 years, which cannot be renewed.

Topic-GS-3- Indian Economy

Source- The Hindu, RBI

8. MGNREGA causing labour crisis: RBI

Key Highlights of RBI's annual report on MGNREGA

- The report says that since rural households across six states surveyed preferred working under MGNREGS than traditional labour, it is leading to an agricultural labour crisis.
- In poorer states, more people preferred MGNREGS over traditional labour.
- The shift to MGNREGS was higher in casual labour households.
- Highest in:
 1. Odisha (75 %)
 2. Uttar Pradesh (66 %)
 3. West Bengal (42.5 %)
- The main reason for choosing MGNREGA was payment parity among gender and difference in the wage of schemes over traditional employment.

Related Information

MGNREGA

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (NREGA), later renamed as the "Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act", MGNREGA).
- It is an Indian labour law and social security measure.
- Launched on 2nd February 2006.

- It provided the guarantee for 'right to work'.
- It aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas.
- Provides at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year.
- To every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

NOTE

- MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats (GPs).
- The involvement of contractors is banned.

Topic-GS-1- Social Empowerment

Source- Down to Earth

9. Asia Index launches S&P BSE Private Banks Index

- To measure the performance of private banks listed in India.
- The Index is drawn from the constituents of the S&P BSE Finance Index.
- Only common stocks classified as Banks by the BSE Sector Classification mode.
- That is not classified under the BSE scrip category as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) are eligible.
- The index is calculated in Indian Rupees and US Dollar and is calculated real-time by BSE

Related information

Asia Index Pvt Ltd

- Asia Index Pvt Ltd, a joint venture between:
 1. S&P Dow Jones Indices- the world's largest provider of financial market indices.
 2. BSE Ltd - Asia's oldest stock exchange.

Topic-GS-3-Indian economy

Source- Economic Times

10. Drug-resistant superbug spreading in hospitals: study.

- The bacteria, known as Staphylococcus epidermidis.
- It is related to the better-known and more deadly MRSA superbug.
- It's found naturally on human skin.
- It most commonly infects the elderly or patients who have had prosthetic materials implanted, such as catheters and joint replacements.

Related Information

Multidrug-resistant organisms

- Multidrug-resistant organisms are bacteria that have become resistant to certain antibiotics.
- These antibiotics can no longer be used to control or kill the bacteria.
- They help fight infections that are caused by bacteria.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

- MRSA refers to a group of gram-positive bacteria that are genetically distinct from other strains of Staphylococcus aureus.
- MRSA is responsible for several difficult-to-treat infections in humans.
- It began as a hospital-acquired infection.

Superbugs

- Superbug is a term used to describe strains of bacteria.
- They are resistant to the majority of antibiotics commonly used today.
- Resistant bacteria that cause pneumonia, urinary tract infections and skin infections are just a few of the dangers we now face.

Topic-GS-2-Issues related to health

Source- The Hindu

11. MSP on crops has the major impact on inflation: RBI

Key Highlights of RBI's annual report on MSP

- The report points out that although agriculture and allied activities provide a solid foundation to the economy, producers are still at peril.
- But when wheat and paddy were removed from the list of 16 crops, the only crops for which procurement is guaranteed, the impact on inflation was minor.
- The report also said that international price contributes to inflation of edible oils.

Related Information

Minimum Support Price or MSP

- MSP is an Agriculture product price.
- To purchase directly from the farmer.
- This rate is to safeguard farmer to minimum profit for the harvest if the open market has lesser price than the cost incurred.

- The first time it was introduced in 1966-67 for wheat in the wake of the Green Revolution.
- The MSP is announced by the Government of India the beginning of each season viz. Rabi and Kharif.
- Recommendations are given by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices(CACP).

Topic-GS-3- Agriculture

Source- Down to earth

06.09.2018

1. Hope Mars Mission

Related Information

The Hope Mars Mission or Emirates Mars Mission

- It is a space exploration probe mission to Mars.
- Set to be launched by the United Arab Emirates in 2020.
- It will become the first mission to Mars by any Arab or Muslim country upon its launch.
- The mission was announced in July 2014.
- This spacecraft orbiter is a planned uncrewed mission to Mars by the United Arab Emirates to study the Martian atmosphere and climate.
- The mission is being carried out by a team composed solely of Emirati engineers.
- The probe has been named Hope probe or 'Al-Amal' and it is scheduled to reach Mars in 2021.

NOTE

- The Hope probe will be compact and hexagonal in shape and structure, with a mass of approximately 1,500 kg (3,300 lb) including fuel.
- The launch will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the United Arab Emirates' formation.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- Gulf News

2. Cabinet approves the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats beyond 12th Plan from 2017-18 to 2019-20

- The Scheme consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of:
 1. Project Tiger (CSS-PT)
 2. Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH)
 3. Project Elephant (CSS-PE)

Related information

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats(IDWH)

- IDWH is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Launched during the 11th Plan period.
- To provide technical and financial assistance to States/UTs for protection of wildlife habitat.
- Financial assistance is also provided to States.

Project Tiger

- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme.
- Launched in 1973.
- The project aims at ensuring a viable population of Bengal tigers in their natural habitats, protecting them from extinction, and preserving areas of biological importance.
- The project was launched in the Corbett National Park of Uttarakhand.
- Project Tiger is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Project Elephant

- Project Elephant was launched in 1992.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme
- Under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- For providing financial and technical support of wildlife management efforts by states for their free-ranging populations of wild Asian Elephants.

Topic-GS-3- Conservation

Source-PIB

3. PM Jan Dhan Yojna to be the open-ended scheme with more incentives

New Changes in PM Jan Dhan Yojana

- The overdraft facility has been doubled from Rs. **5,000 to Rs. 10,000.**
- The age limit for availing overdraft facility has been revised to **18 to 65 years** from the earlier **18 to 60 years.**

- Accidental insurance cover for new RuPay Cardholders has been raised from **1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.**

Related information

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

- PMJDY is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion.
- To ensure access to financial services in an affordable manner.
- Launched in 2014.
- Run by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- The account can be opened in any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet.
- The accounts opened under PMJDY are being opened with Zero balance.

Topic-GS-3- Financial Inclusion

Source- AIR

4. The government released the curriculum on Experiential Learning – Gandhiji's Nai Talim in New Delhi

- This curriculum was brought out in 13 languages i.e., Assamese, Tamil, Bengali, Odiya, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, Marathi, Telugu, Gujarati, Urdu, Hindi and English.
- It is a joint effort of the Universities in the state, state SCERT and Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE).

NOTE-

- Gandhiji's Nai Talim or basic education was a holistic approach of developing body, mind, and soul (hand, head and heart), by making a productive art, craft or community engagement activity.

Related Information

Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE)

- MGNCRE, formerly known as National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI).
- Established on 19th October 1995.
- It is an independent body.
- Funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The headquarters of the Institute is at Hyderabad.
- The main objective is to promote and facilitate higher education in the rural areas to develop the livelihoods of the rural people.

- It aims at educating the rural people following the path is shown by Mahatma Gandhi and his revolutionary concept namely "Nai Talim."

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to education
Source-PIB

5. Pak allows inspection of Kotri barrage by India: report

Related Information

Kotri Barrage

- Kotri Barrage is a barrage on the Indus River.
- Between Jamshoro and Hyderabad.
- In the Sindh province of Pakistan.
- The barrage was completed in 1955.
- Kotri Barrage is used to control water flow in the River Indus for irrigation and flood control purposes.
- It provides additional water to Karachi city.

Topic-GS-2-India and its neighborhood-relations.

Source- The Times of India

6. Indian Roofed Turtles (Pangshura tecta)

Related information

Indian Roofed Turtles

- It can be distinguished by the distinct "roof" at the topmost part of the shell.
- It is found in the major rivers of South Asia.
- It is a common pet in the Indian Subcontinent.
- Inhabits the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus, and Mahanadi river drainages in Pakistan, northern and peninsular India, and Bangladesh.
- Protection:
 1. Classified as Least Concern by IUCN.
 2. Listed on CITES Appendix I.
 3. Protected under Schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Topic-GS-1-Flora and fauna

Source- The Hindu

7. Japan to test mini 'space elevator'

- This test is the first exploring the movement of a container on a cable in space.
- It's the world's first experiment to test travel between two mini-satellites in space.

- The test equipment will be launched on board of H-2B rocket by Japan's space agency from the southern island of Tanegashima.
- The test involves a miniature elevator stand-in — a box just 6 cm long, 3 cm wide, and 3 cm high.

NOTE

- The idea was first proposed in 1895 by Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky after he saw the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and was revisited nearly a century later in a novel by Arthur C. Clarke.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu

8. Cyient JV bags Army order for UAV systems

- Cyient Solutions & Systems Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture between IT firm Cyient and BlueBird Aero Systems of Israel, has bagged an order from the Indian Army to supply mini UAV(unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance.
- The order is for the SpyLite mini UAV systems.

Related information

SpyLite

- SpyLite is an advanced, combat-proven, electric, mini unmanned aerial system.
- It is fully autonomous.
- From launch to accurate parachute recovery, it delivers enhanced reliability.
- Even in severe weather conditions, assuring long endurance and high operational availability.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu

9. Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of a rural circuit in Kerala

- The project will be focusing on the development of water-based thematic cruise experiences in and around Valapattanam and Kuppam Rivers of Kannur District.
- Three thematic cruises being developed under this project will be on Valapattanam and Kuppam River.

- **3 approved cruises are:**
 1. **Malabari Cuisine and Culinary Cruise (Muthappan Cruise)** – It will start from Valapattanam and will cover a distance of 40 Km to reach Munambu Kadavu in Valapattanam River.
 2. **Theyyam Cruise-** It will begin from Valapattanam and will go up to Pazhayangadi in Valapattanam River.
 3. **Mangrove Cruise-** In Kuppam River covering a distance of 16 Km from Pazhayangadi to Kuppam.

Related information

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Launched by the Ministry of Tourism.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- Launched in 2014-15.
- For the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits in the country.
- It also has provision for voluntary funding under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- The scheme has identified 13 thematic circuits for development:
 1. Buddhist Circuit
 2. North-East India Circuit
 3. Coastal Circuit
 4. Himalayan Circuit
 5. Krishna Circuit
 6. Desert Circuit
 7. Eco Circuit
 8. Wildlife Circuit
 9. Tribal Circuit
 10. Rural Circuit
 11. Spiritual Circuit
 12. Ramayana Circuit
 13. Heritage Circuit

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source- Business Standards

10. IAF carries out first ever mid-air refueling of Tejas combat jet

- A Russian-built IL-78 MKI tanker transferred fuel to the jet.

Related Information

Light combat aircraft Tejas (LCA Tejas)

- It is the smallest and lightest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.

- Designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The aircraft has a digital computer-based attack system and autopilot mode.
- It can fire air-to-air missiles, carry bombs and precision guided ammunition.

Topic-GS-3-Indenization of technology, development of new technology.

Source- Times of India

07.09.2018

1. NASA-funded Rocket to View Sun with X-Ray Vision

Related information

FOXSI (Focusing Optics X-ray Solar Imager) mission

- FOXSI is a sounding rocket mission.
- FOXSI is a collaboration between NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency,
- The sounding rockets make brief 15-minute journeys above Earth's atmosphere for a peek at space before falling back to the ground.
- Smaller, cheaper and faster to develop than large-scale satellite missions.
- FOXSI will travel 190 miles up, above the shield of Earth's atmosphere, to stare directly at the Sun and search for nanoflares using its X-ray vision.
- FOXSI is the first instrument built specially to image high-energy X-rays from the Sun by directly focusing them.
- FOXSI is so far the only instrument to optimize especially for the Sun.

NOTE-

- This will be FOXSI's third flight.
- Its first flight was in 2012, during which it successfully viewed a small solar flare in progress.
- Its second flight was in 2014 when it detected the best evidence at the time of X-ray emission from nanoflares.
- The third mission follows up on this discovery, but this time it includes a new telescope designed for imaging lower-energy, so-called soft X-rays as well.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source-NASA

2. NASA Will Launch 2 Rockets to Test a Mars Parachute and Track 'Nanoflares'.

Related information

Nanoflares

- A nanoflare is also called tiny flares.
- It is a very small episodic heating event.
- It happens in the corona, the external atmosphere of the Sun.

Topic-GS-3-Awareness of the space

Source- NASA

3. 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- Conference on 'Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons'.
- India will be represented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It is being held in Seoul, Korea.

Related Information

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

- The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an Asian-European political dialogue forum.
- The ASEM Summit is a biennial meeting.
- To enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners.
- The main components of the ASEM process rest on the following 3 pillars:
(a) Political & Security Pillar
(b) Economic & Financial Pillar
(c) Social, Cultural & Educational Pillar
- It was officially established on 1st March 1996.
- At the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ASEM currently has 53 partners: 51 countries and 2 regional organizations.

NOTE

- The European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat are the regional organizations involved.
- Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the only permanently established institution under the ASEM framework.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral relations

Source-PIB

4. Mauritius takes the UK to court over the Chagos Islands

Related information

Chagos Island

- The Chagos Islands are a group of seven atolls.
- Comprising more than 60 individual tropical islands in the Indian Ocean about 500 kilometers (310 mi) south of the Maldives.
- This chain of islands is the southernmost archipelago of the Chagos-Laccadive Ridge, a long submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean.
- Officially part of British Indian Ocean Territory.
- The United Kingdom evicted the Chagossians people between 1967 and 1973.
- To build a military base on Diego Garcia, the largest of the Chagos Islands.
- Since 1971, only the atoll of Diego Garcia is inhabited, and only by military and civilian contracted personnel.

Topic-GS-2-Agreement involving India's interest

Source- Times of India

5. Supreme Court bats for minor rape survivors

- The apex court extended the National Legal Services Authority's (NALSA) compensation scheme for women rape and sexual assault survivors to minor children.

Related Information

National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)

- NALSA was formed on 5 December 1995.
- Under the authority of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- Its purpose is to provide free legal services to eligible candidates.
- To organize Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases.
- The Chief Justice of India is patron-in-chief of NALSA.
- The second seniormost judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive-Chairman.
- The prime objective of NALSA is speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden of the judiciary.

Topic-GS-1-Social Empowerment

Source- The Hindu

6. Atal Pension Yojana indefinitely extended

- The scheme, which was earlier for four years, lapsed in August 2018, but the cabinet has decided to extend it and keep it open-ended.
- Earlier, people of age 18 to 60 years were entitled to enroll in the scheme. But now have relaxed it further to 65 years.
- All accounts opened after August 28 will have an accident insurance limit of Rs 2 lakh, double the earlier Rs 1 lakh limit.
- The overdraft facility of the scheme from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000.

Related Information

Atal Pension Yojana

- Atal Pension Yojana (previously known as Swavalamban Yojana) is a government-backed pension scheme in India targeted at the unorganized sector.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata.
- Age- Min 18 years, Max- 40 years
- The Union Govt. would also co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower.
- Under the scheme, a subscriber will receive a minimum guaranteed pension of 1000 to 5000 rupees per month, depending on his contribution, from the age of 60 years.

Topic-GS-2- Government interventions in various sectors

Source- The Hindu

7. India to participate in PISA after 9-year boycott Official

- India has decided to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).
- It tests the learning level of 15-year-olds.
- After a gap of 9 years.
- India had taken part in PISA in 2009 and bagged the 72nd rank among 74 participating countries.

Related Information

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

- PISA is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- Formed in 1997.
- It intends to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance in mathematics, science and reading.
- It was first performed in 2000.
- It is then repeated every three years.
- Its aim is to provide comparable data with a view to enabling countries to improve their education policies and outcomes.
- It measures problem solving and cognition.

Topic-GS-2- Important international institutions

Source- Business Standards

8. Indian navy ships & aircraft arrive in Sri Lanka to participate in joint exercise SLINEX-2018

- The exercise to be conducted in two phases, namely the Harbour and Sea Phase.

NOTE

- Sri Lanka Air Force personnel would also join in the exercise for the first time.
- The exercise which was previously held biannually has been converted to an annual event from this year

Related Information

SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise)

- SLINEX are a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy.
- The first ever SLINEX exercise took place in 2005.

Topic-GS-3- Defence and Security

Source- AIR

9. Iran to handover Chabahar port to Indian co for operation in a month: Iranian Minister.

Related Information

Chabahar Port

- Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar.
- Located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

- It is on the Makran coast of Sistan and Baluchistan Province, next to the Gulf of Oman and at the mouth of Strait of Hormuz.
- It serves as Iran's only oceanic port.
- It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti, each of which has five berths.
- Chabahar Port also provides direct access to India's Farkhor Air Base in Tajikistan.
- Opened in 1983.
- It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
- Chabahar is 700 km away from Zahedan, the capital of the Sistan and Baluchistan province, 950 km away from Milak, the closest city to the Afghan border.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral relations

Source- Indian Express

10. 2nd World Hindu Congress (WHC)

Related Information

World Hindu Congress

- It is a global platform for Hindus to connect, share ideas, inspire one another, and impact the common good.
- It offers Hindus an opportunity to introspect towards improvement.
- Inaugurated in 2014.
- The second World Hindu Congress will be held in Chicago, Illinois, the U.S. from September 7 – 9, 2018.

Topic-GS-2-India and its relation with other countries

Source-PIB

08.09.2018

1. Israel celebrations honor Indian soldiers who liberated Haifa city during World War I.

- The northern Israeli coastal city of Haifa on celebrated the centenary year of its liberation from Ottoman rule during World War I.
- It honored the brave Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in "the last great cavalry campaign in history".

Related Information

Battle of Haifa

- The event took place on 23rd September 1918.
- Located on Haifa, Ottoman Empire (present-day Israel).
- It is called Haifa day.
- Indian Army pays its respects to the three Indian Cavalry Regiments - Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers.
- They helped liberate Haifa by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade of the then British Indian Army at the Battle of Haifa in 1918.

Topic-GS-1- History of the world.

Source- Economic Times

2. India and France sign an implementation agreement on "MOBILISE YOUR CITY" (MYC)

Related Information

Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme

- Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative.
- It is an initiative combining urban mobility objectives and climate considerations.
- Supported by the French and the German Governments.
- Launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December 2015.
- It aims at supporting three pilot cities:
 1. Nagpur
 2. Kochi
 3. Ahmedabad
- In their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport.

Topic-GS-1- Population and associated issues, urbanization.

Source- The Hindu

3. Board Members of USIBC call on PM.

Related Information

The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC)

- The USIBC was formed in 1975.
- It is a business advocacy, non-profit organization.
- To enlighten and encourage the private sectors of both India and the United States to enhance investment flows.
- The organization serves as a direct link between business and Government leaders.

- Resulting in increased trade and investment to strengthen ties between the two nations.
- Headquarters in Washington, D.C., United States.
- USIBC partners with the major trade associations:
 1. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
 2. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
 3. The American Chamber of Commerce in India (AmCham India)
 4. National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
 5. The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE)
 6. The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral relations

Source-PIB

4. Nari Shakti Puraskar

Related Information

Nari Shakti Puraskar

- Nari Shakti Puraskar (formally Stree Shakti Puraskar).
- Instituted in 1991.
- It is the highest award for women for their exceptional achievement.
- The award is given by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It recognizes the spirit of courage of a woman in difficult circumstances, who has established this spirit of courage in her personal or professional life.
- The award also recognizes the pioneering contribution of an individual in empowering women and raising women's issues.
- The award is conferred by the President on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March every year at New Delhi.

Topic-GS-1-Social Empowerment

Source-PIB

5. Malanad Malabar cruise project

- The Ministry of Tourism has planned to introduce three thematic cruises as part of the Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project in north Kerala under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

- One of the cruises is the Malabar cuisine and culinary cruise in Valapattanam river titled the Muthappan Cruise. The cruise will be from Valapattanam to Munambu Kadavu in Valapattanam river, covering an effective length of 40 km.
- The second cruise in Valapattanam river will be from Valapattanam to Pazhayangadi, effectively covering 16 km. The third is a mangrove cruise in Kuppam river, from Pazhayangadi to Kuppam, an effective length of 16 km.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral Relations

Source- The Hindu

6. Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code

The legal dispute began in 2001, with a petition filed by a non-profit, the Naz Foundation (Trust) India, against the Union government.

Related Information

Related Information

Section 377

- Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is a section of the Indian Penal Code introduced in 1861 during the British rule of India.
- 377 is for Unnatural offenses.
- It is defined by IPC as "Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."
- Earlier, violation of the IPC section was punishable with imprisonment for 10 years or sometimes even for life.

Topic-GS-1- Social Empowerment

Source- Down to earth

7. Pakistan could emerge as world's 5th largest nuclear weapons state: Report

- Pakistan currently has 140 to 150 nuclear warheads.
- The stockpile is expected to increase to 220 to 250 by 2025 if the current trend continues.

NOTE

- Total Nuclear Warheads:
 1. Russia
 2. United States
 3. France
 4. China

Topic-GS-3- Defence and security

Source- Times of India

8. Temasek inks pact to invest \$400 mn in NIIF

- Temasek will join the Government of India, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), HDFC Group, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance and Axis Bank as an investor in NIIF's Master Fund and as a shareholder in National Investment and Infrastructure Limited.

Related Information

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

- NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund.
- It was set up by the Government of India in February 2015.
- The objective behind creating this fund was to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and Brownfield.
- NIIF manages three funds:
 1. **Master Fund-** It is an infrastructure fund.
 - The objective is of primarily investing in operating assets in the core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc.

2. Fund of Funds

1. Fund of Funds anchor and/or invest in funds managed by fund managers who have good track records in infrastructure and associated sectors in India.
2. Some of the sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.

3. Strategic Fund- Strategic Investment Fund is registered as an Alternative Investment Fund II under SEBI in India.

- The funds were set up to make infrastructure investments in India by raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.

Topic-GS-3-Investment

Source- The Hindu

9. Monetary limit for filing cases in DRT doubled to Rs 20 lakh

Related Information

Debt Recovery Tribunal

1. DRT in India is a tribunal.
2. For the financial recovery of bad debts which are due to the bank and financial institutions.
3. It was created in 1993.
4. In India, there are total 39 Debt Recovery Tribunal and five Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunal.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source- The Hindu

10. World Summit on Accreditation.

- The 4th edition of the summit in New Delhi.
- The theme this year is - Challenges and Opportunities in Outcome-Based Accreditation.

Related Information

1. World Summit on Accreditation

- The Summit is a biennial event.
- Organized by the National Board of Accreditation.
- It provides the platform to its stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.
- WOSA Summits:
 - (a) 1st - 2012
 - (b) 2nd - 2014
 - (c) 3rd - 2016

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions and agencies.

Source- AIR

11. COMCASA

- COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement.
- It is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners.
- To facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high-end technology.
- COMCASA is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA).
- It comes into force immediately and is valid for a period of 10 years.

- COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialized equipment for encrypted communications for US-origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130, and P-8Is.
- Currently, these platforms use commercially available communication systems.
- India had signed:
 - (a) The General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002.
 - (b) The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.
 - (c) The last one remaining is the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

10.09.2018

1. Project Sashakt

Related information

Project Sashakt

- Project Sashakt is a five-pronged strategy to resolve bad loans.
- With the larger ones going to an asset management company (AMC) or an alternative investment fund (AIF).
- It was proposed by a panel led by PNB chairman Sunil Mehta.
- According to the committee, banks will have to set up an AMC under which there will be multiple sector-specific AIFs.
- These funds will invest in the stressed assets bought by existing ARCs, such as ARCIL.

Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)

- AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India via privately pooled investment.
- These funds do not happen via the traditional modes of investment such as stocks, bonds, cash, property etc.
- Alternative investments include private equity, hedge funds, managed futures, real estate, commodities and derivatives contracts.

- It comes under Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Topic-GS-3- Indian Economy

Source- Livemint

2. Eight avian species declared "extinct" in the new study

- The study was conducted by the non-profit "BirdLife International".
- Some of the 8 avian species declared extinct are:
 1. **The Spix's macaw-** A type of parrot, was last sighted in the wild in 2000.
 2. **The Alagoas Foliage-gleaner-** A small forest bird, became extinct in 2011.
 3. **The cryptic tree-hunter-** Has not been seen in the wild since 2007.
 4. **The Pernambuco pygmy-owl-** A 15cm-tall owl that eats insects and hasn't been seen in the Brazilian state of Pernambuco since 2002.
 5. **The glaucous macaw-** Once found in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil before its palm grove habitat was destroyed to make space for farming.
 6. **The poo-uli, or black-faced honeycreeper-** Found on the island of Maui in Hawaii but was last sighted in 2004.

Related Information

Birdlife International

- BirdLife International is a worldwide alliance of nongovernmental organizations.
- It promotes the conservation of birds and their habitats.
- Founded in 1922 as the International Council for Bird Preservation.
- Headquarters in Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- It is the official Red List authority for birds, for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- BirdLife International publishes a quarterly magazine, World Birdwatch

Topic-GS-1-Flora and Fauna

Source- The Hindu

3. Trust status has been granted to 'Bharat Ke Veer'

- The government granted the status of a trust to 'Bharat Ke Veer', a private initiative promoted by actor Akshay Kumar.

- Contributions to Bharat Ke Veer has been exempted from Income Tax.

Related Information

Bharat Ke Veer

- Bharat Ke Veer is a fund-raising initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs, on behalf of members of the Indian Armed Forces.
- It aids families of paramilitary personnel killed in action.
- It allows donations of up to ₹ 15 lakhs to an individual's account and donations to the "Bharat Ke Veer" corpus.

Topic-GS-2- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections.

Source- The Hindu

4. Leptospirosis: preventive measures stepped up in the Nilgiris.

Related Information

Leptospirosis

- It is a rare bacterial infection.
- Caused by corkscrew-shaped bacteria called Leptospira.
- If the infection causes the person to turn yellow, have kidney failure and bleeding, it is then known as Weil's disease.
- If it also causes bleeding into the lungs then it is known as severe pulmonary hemorrhage syndrome.
- It is transmitted by both wild and domestic animals.
- The most common animals that spread the disease are rodents.

Topic-GS- 2-Issues relating to Health

Source- The Hindu

5. China launches new marine satellite HY-1C on Long March-2C rocket

NOTE-

China launched:

- HY-1A, in May 2002.
- HY-1B, in April 2007.

Related Information

HaiYang (HY-1C)

- It is a marine remote sensing satellite.
- HY-1C is expected to improve China's ocean remote sensing capability.
- Operated by NSOAS (National Satellite Ocean Application Service).
- HY-1C can detect chlorophyll and suspended sediment concentrations and dissolved organic matter.

- It can affect ocean color, as well as temperatures on the sea surface.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- Financial Express

6. Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest living structure, may be recovering

Related Information

Great Barrier Reef

- The reef is located in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.
- It is the world's largest coral reef.
- The 2,300km-long ecosystem comprises thousands of reefs and hundreds of islands made of over 600 types of hard and soft coral.
- It is a world heritage site.

Topic-GS-3-Conservation

Source- Business Standard

7. Elusive snow leopard spotted in Himachal wildlife sanctuary

- A snow leopard was spotted at a height of about 4,000 meters in Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

Related Information

Snow Leopard

- The snow leopard is a large cat native to the mountain ranges of Central and South Asia.
- The snow leopard inhabits alpine and subalpine zones at elevations from 3,000 to 4,500 m (9,800 to 14,800 ft), ranging from eastern Afghanistan to Mongolia and western China.
- Protection:
 - 1972. Schedule I under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
 - 1973. Appendix I of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).
 - 1974. Appendix I Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
 - 1975. It has been improved from "endangered" to "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Topic-GS-1-Conservation related issues

Source- The Hindu

8. Treatment of child-cancer to be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.

Related Information

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or Ayushman Bharat scheme will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay on September 25, 2018.
- It is the world's largest government-funded programme.
- It will cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.
- Providing coverage up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- The beneficiaries will be decided on the basis of the Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011 (SECC) database.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source- AIR

9. Scientists discover first omnivorous shark species which doesn't eat just meat

Related Information

Bonnethead shark

- It is shark species which feeds on seagrass for 60 percent of its food requirements.
- Bonnethead sharks eat seagrass along with snails, crabs, bony fish, and shrimp.
- It is the only known case of plant-feeding in sharks.
- This species occurs off the American coast, in regions where the water is usually warmer than 70 °F (21 °C).
- It ranges from New England, where it is rare, to the Gulf of Mexico and Brazil, and from southern California to Ecuador.
- The bonnethead is an abundant species and is currently classified as a least concern species by the IUCN.
- It is heavily targeted by commercial and recreational fisheries.

Topic-GS-3-Conservation related Issues

Source- CNET

10. NASA'S Cassini finds six-sided vortex in the atmosphere above Saturn's north pole

NOTE-

- The Vortex is hundreds of miles above the clouds, in the stratosphere.
- It is similar to the famous hexagon seen deeper down in Saturn's clouds.

- The edges of this newly-found vortex appear to be hexagonal, precisely matching a famous and bizarre hexagonal cloud pattern we see deeper down in Saturn's atmosphere.

Related Information

NASA's Cassini

- The Cassini-Huygens mission, commonly called Cassini.
- Launched in 1997.
- It was a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Italian Space Agency (ASI).
- To send a probe to study the planet Saturn and its system.
- Including its rings and natural satellites.
- The Flagship-class robotic landed on Saturn's largest moon, Titan in 2005.
- Cassini was the fourth space probe to visit Saturn and the first to enter its orbit.

Topic-GS-3- Science and Technology

Source-Firstpost

11.09.2018

1. Pluto should be reclassified as a planet

- In 2006, the International Astronomical Union, a global group of astronomy experts, established a definition of a planet.
- The definition agreed upon requires that an object meet three conditions to qualify as a planet:
 1. It must orbit the sun.
 2. It must be massive enough that its gravity pulls it more or less into a spherical shape.
 3. It must clear the neighborhood around its orbit.

Why was Pluto not classified as a planet?

- Since Neptune's gravity influences its neighboring planet Pluto, and Pluto shares its orbit with frozen gases and objects in the Kuiper belt, that meant Pluto was out of planet status.

New Expert Study

- It argued that the third piece of that definition does not match historical usage by scientists and should be revoked.

- Moons such as Saturn's Titan and Jupiter's Europa have been routinely called planets by planetary scientists since the time of Galileo.
- It recommends classifying a planet based on if it is large enough that its gravity allows it to become spherical in shape.

Related Information

The International Astronomical Union (IAU)

- IAU is an international association of professional astronomers.
- At the Ph.D. level and beyond, active in professional research and education in astronomy.
- Formed in 28th July, 1919.
- Headquarters in Paris, France
- It acts as the internationally recognized authority for assigning designations and names to celestial bodies (stars, planets, asteroids, etc.) and any surface features on them.
- The IAU is a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU).
- Its main objective is to promote and safeguard the science of astronomy in all its aspects through international cooperation.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- Science Daily

2. 'Pondicherry shark' spotted near Kakinada

Related Information

Pondicherry Shark

- Known as 'Pala Sora' in the local parlance.
- It was once found throughout Indo-Pacific coastal waters from the Gulf of Oman to New Guinea.
- It is known to enter fresh water.
- Protection:
 1. Listed as an **endangered species**, under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 2. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Pondicherry shark as **Critically Endangered**.
- The Pondicherry Shark is on the verge of extinction.
- The shark is among the 25 "most wanted lost" species that are the

focus of Global Wildlife Conservation's "Search for Lost Species" initiative.

Topic-GS-Conservation related issues.

Source- The Hindu

3. Nepal backs out of BIMSTEC joint military exercise in Pune

- The field training exercise will be conducted between September 10 and 16 at the Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune.
- Armies of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and Nepal were to participate in it.

NOTE

The withdrawal of the Nepal Army from the event is a **first-of-its-kind in BIMSTEC history**.

Related information

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

- BIMSTEC is an international organization of seven nations of South Asia and South East Asia.
- The BIMSTEC member states are:
 1. Bangladesh
 2. India
 3. Myanmar
 4. Sri Lanka
 5. Thailand
 6. Bhutan
 7. Nepal
- The permanent secretariat is in Dhaka.
- Established on 6th June 1997.

NOTE-

Chairmanship – Sri Lanka, Since September 2018.

Topic-GS-3- Bilateral relations with other countries.

Source- Indian Express

4. India joins the elite group of countries capable of Air-to-Air fuel transfer

- The Air-to-Air refueling capability for Tejas is a force multiplier for the Indian Air Force, giving the aircraft the potential to stay airborne for much longer periods of time

Related Information

TEJAS

- The HAL Tejas is an Indian single-seat, single-jet engine, multirole light fighter.

- Designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.
- In 2003, the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was officially named "Tejas".
- It provides high maneuverability.
- It is the smallest and lightest in its class of contemporary supersonic combat aircraft.

Topic-GS-3-Defence

Source- AIR

5. INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018

Nomadic Elephant-2018, commenced at Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) Five Hills Training Area, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Related Information

Exercise Nomadic Elephant

- Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual, bilateral exercise.
- Since 2006.
- For strengthening the partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces.
- The Indian contingent is represented by a contingent of 17 PUNJAB Regiment.
- While the Mongolian contingent is represented by Unit 084 of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Topic-GS-2-Security

Source-PIB

6. Government inaugurates First Regional Workshop on RERA

Related Information

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016

- RERA, 2016 is an Act of the Parliament of India.
- It seeks to protect home-buyers.
- It also helps boost investments in the real estate industry.
- It acts as an adjudicating body for speedy dispute redressal.
- The Central and state governments are liable to notify the Rules under the Act within a statutory period of six months.

Topic-GS-3- Indian Economy

Source-PIB

7. India's first 205-tonne dump truck by BEML launched in Mysuru

- The country's first 205T Electric Drive Rear Dump Truck (BH205-E).
- It designed and developed at the Mysuru plant of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a PSU under the Ministry of Defence.

Related Information

BH205-E

- BH205-E has been developed for large-scale mining operations.
- It is powered by Tier-II emission complaint modular common rail electronic engine with 2300HP.
- The AC drive system has been engineered to provide exceptional haul road performance with reduced maintenance.
- The truck weighs 335 tonnes.
- It is easily maneuverable with power-steering and short turning radius.
- It has an ergonomically designed dashboard and a tiltable telescopic steering wheel.

Topic-GS-3-Indigenization of technology

Source- The Hindu

8. Union Women and Child Development Maneka see animals in the wrong role

Maneka Gandhi has locked horns with the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), accusing it of being lax in enforcement of rules that specify how wild animals can be depicted in films and television programmes.

Related Information

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act is an Act of the Parliament of India.
- Enacted in 1960.
- To prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals.
- Also, to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals.

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)

- AWBI headquartered at Ballabgarh in Haryana state.
- Established in 1962, under The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act,1960.
- It is a statutory advisory body.

- It advises the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It was previously based at Chennai.

Topic-GS-3-Statutory bodies

Source- The Hindu

9. International Whaling Commission

Related Information

The International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- IWC is an international body.
- Founded in 2nd December 1946.
- The headquarters of the IWC is in Impington, near Cambridge, England.
- The IWC is the decision making the body of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.
- It is the body that regulates whaling and ultimately decides what happens to whales.

Topic-GS-2-Important international institutions, agencies

Source- Business Standard

10. Heritage tag for 2 irrigation facilities in Telangana.

- The highest decision making the body of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), at Saskatoon in Canada, has accepted Telangana government's nomination of Sadarmatt anicut and Pedda Cheruvu in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

Related Information

Sadarmatt anicut

- The anicut, which is the English word for Telugu's ana-katta, meaning a rainfall bund.
- It was built by Nawab Iqbal-ud-Dowla who bore the title of Vicar-ul-Umrah Bahadur in 1891-92.
- It is across river Godavari in Nirmal district.
- Constructed in 1891-92.
- Sadarmatt bund is 437.4 m long on its left flank and 23.8 m on its right flank.

Pedda Cheruvu

- The Pedda Cheruvu (big tank in Telugu).
- Located on the outskirts of Kamareddy district is spread over an area of 618 acres.
- It was built in 1897.

- During the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State.
- It has a 1.8-km-long tank bund and 145-meter weir and three sluices.

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)

- ICID, established in 1950.
- It is a leading scientific, technical, international not-for-profit, non-governmental organization.
- ICID is a professional network of experts from across the world in the field of irrigation, drainage, and flood management.
- The main mission is to promote 'Sustainable agriculture water management'.
- For achieving 'Water secure world free of poverty and hunger through sustainable rural development'.

Topic-GS-1-Indian physical geography

Source- The Hindu

12.09.2018

1. India and Bangladesh launched railway, power projects

Key Projects:

1. 5-kilometer railway link between Akhaura in Bangladesh and Agartala in Tripura.

- The project was agreed in 2010 and is expected to be operational in the next two years.
- It will aim to boost trade and connectivity between Bangladesh and the landlocked northeast.
- It will also reduce the travel time and distance between Kolkata and Agartala.

2. Rebuilding the Kulaura-Shahbazpur section of Bangladesh Railways.

- It is seen as part of a trans-Asian railway project that seeks to connect South Asia to Southeast Asia.

3. 500MW additional power supply from India to Bangladesh.

- Through the existing Bheramara-Baharampur interconnection.
- Bangladesh will reach 1.016GW of electricity supply from India.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure and Investment

Source- The Hindu

2. Apsara – U Reactor Becomes Operational at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay

Related information

Apsara

- It is the first and the oldest research reactor in Asia.
- Apsara is a highly versatile swimming pool-type of the reactor.
- Became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in August 1956.
- It was shut down in 2009 for a revamp.
- It is being recommissioned after 9 yrs.
- The research reactor's earlier French made enriched fuel has been replaced with an Indian made enriched fuel.
- It is now operational as 'Apsara-U'(upgraded).
- This reactor will increase indigenous production of radio-isotopes for medical application by about 50 %.
- It would also be exclusively used for research in nuclear physics, material science and radiation shielding.

Topic-GS-3-Indigenization of technology

Source-PIB

3. Kartarpur Sahib pilgrim corridor

Related Information

Kartarpur Sahib

- It is in Kartarpur Sahib, now in Pakistan, Narowal district.
- The gurdwara at Kartarpur stands at the site of the final resting place of the first Sikh Guru.
- It is just across the border from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district.
- It stands on the bank of the Ravi.
- About 120 km northeast of Lahore.
- It was here that Guru Nanak assembled a Sikh community.
- He lived for 18 years there until his death in 1539.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral Relations

Source- AIR

4. INDO-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018

Related Information

Exercise Yudh Abhyas

- Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 is scheduled to be conducted in the foothills of the Himalayas.

- At Chaubattia in Uttarakhand.
- From 16 September to 29 September 2018.
- This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise.
- It is hosted alternately by both countries.
- Yudh Abhyas series started in 2004.

Topic-GS-3-Defence

Source-PIB

5. Government launches a web portal "Rail Sahyog"

Related Information

Rail Sahyog

- It will provide a platform for the Corporates & PSUs to contribute to the creation of amenities at/near Railway Stations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds.
- The companies desirous of contributing can register their requests on the portal.
- Based on the principle of first come first serve, the requests will be shortlisted.
- The selected ones will be intimated to deposit the funds with Railways agencies like RITES, RAILTEL and so on.
- The activities identified to be funded through CSR include:
 1. The construction of toilets in circulating areas of all stations with the provision of low-cost sanitary pad vending machine.
 2. The incinerator will be added in female toilets and a condom vending machine in male toilets.
 3. Providing free wifi at stations.
 4. Provision of benches at station platforms as a facility for senior citizens and disabled.
 5. The installation of bottle crushing machines.
 6. Separate dustbins for both wet and dry garbage.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure- Railways

Source-PIB

6. Historians oppose Monuments Bill

Related Information

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017

- The Bill amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.
- The bill allows the government to take up infrastructure projects within prohibited areas around protected monuments.
- The Act, which originally instituted conservation measures and banned construction activities near protected monuments, is now sought to be amended so that public works could be allowed within the 100 m prohibited zone.
- It empowers the central government to allow public works based on the recommendation of National Monuments Authority (NMA).

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source-The Hindu

7. 'SLINEX-2018' joint exercise between navies of India and Sri Lanka

Related Information

SLINEX

- It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka
- SLINEX which was previously held once in two years.
- It is scheduled to be held as an annual event from this year onwards.
- The first ever SLINEX exercise took place in 2005.

Topic-GS-3-Defence

Source- AIR

8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls on people to be a part of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva Movement

Related information

Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign

- It is a nationwide sanitation campaign.
- Launched on 15th September 2017.
- At Iswarganj village in Kanpur.
- The aim of the Swachh Bharat Mission is to achieve a clean and open defecation free India by October 2, 2019.
- The objectives are:
 1. Generating demand for toilets leading to their construction and sustained use by all household members

2. Promoting better hygiene behavior amongst the population
 3. Improving cleanliness by initiating solid and liquid waste management projects.
- Coordinated by Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source-PIB

9. An exoplanet discovered 145 light years away

- An exoplanet twice as big as the Earth, Wolf 503b, was discovered with the help of NASA's Kepler Space Telescope.

Related Information

Wolf 503b

- Exoplanet Wolf 503b is 145 light years away from Earth.
- In the constellation of Virgo.
- Being 10 times closer than Mercury is to its star.
- The planet orbits its star, Wolf 503, once every 6 days.

Exoplanet

- Exoplanets are the celestial bodies orbiting stars other than our Sun.
- Their small size makes them difficult to detect from Earth.
- They are hidden by the bright glare of the stars they orbit.
- The nearest exoplanet is Proxima Centauri b.

Topic-Awareness in the Space

Source- Firstpost

10. Health Ministry issues a notification for bringing the HIV/AIDS Act, 2017 in force

Key Features:

- The provisions of the Act address HIV-related discrimination.
- Strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability.
- Establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.
- It seeks to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS.
- The requirement for HIV testing as a pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education is also prohibited.

- Every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household.
- It also prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them.
- A person between the age of 12 to 18 years who has maturity in understanding HIV or AIDS shall be competent to act as a guardian of another sibling below 18 years of age.
- Every person in the care and custody of the state shall have the right to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services.

Related Information

Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS)

- HIV/AIDS is an infection caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- The late symptoms of infection are referred to as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).
- HIV is spread primarily by unprotected sex (including anal and oral sex), contaminated blood transfusions, hypodermic needles, and from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or breastfeeding.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to Health

Source- The Hindu

11. NITI Aayog, Intel and TIFR collaborate to set up a Model International Center for Transformative AI (ICTAI)

Related Information

Model International Center for Transformative AI (ICTAI)

- This initiative is part of NITI Aayog's 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence'
- It is based in Bengaluru.
- It aims to conduct advanced research to incubate AI-led solutions in three important areas:
 1. Healthcare
 2. Agriculture
 3. Smart mobility

- By bringing together the expertise of Intel and TIFR.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source-PIB

12. 39th Session of Human Rights Council

- The **39th session** of the **United Nations Human Rights Council** (UNHRC) will be held on 10-28 September 2018, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Related information

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

- Its mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
- It has 47 members.
- The headquarters of UNHRC is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was established by the UN General Assembly on March 15, 2006.

Topic-GS-3-Important international institutions and agencies

Source- Business Standard

13.09.2018

1. Cabinet Committee clears new procurement policy.

Related Information

"Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA)

- The new Umbrella Scheme PM-AASHA consists of three sub-schemes:
 1. **Price Support Scheme (PSS)**
 - Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies.
 - In addition to NAFED, Food Cooperation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states /districts.
 2. **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)**
 - To cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified.
 - Direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made.
 - All payment will be done directly into the registered bank account of the farmer.

3. **The pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPSS)-**

- For oilseeds, states have the option to roll out Private Procurement Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on the pilot basis in selected district/APMC(s) of the district.
- The pilot district/selected APMC(s) of the district will cover one or more crop of oilseeds for which MSP is notified.
- It is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

Topic-GS-3-Issues relating to direct and indirect farm subsidies.

Source- The Hindu

2. India's health report reads worse

Key findings:

- Indians have registered a 50% increase in the prevalence of ischemic heart disease and stroke over the period from 1990 to 2016.
- The number of diabetes cases climbing from 26 million to 65 million.
- Being overweight was found to be a major risk factor for diabetes doubled in every State of India from 1990 to 2016.
- In the same period, the number of people ailing from chronic obstructive lung disease went up from 28 million to 55 million.
- The State-wise disease burden:
 1. Punjab has been ranked at the top for the burden of ischemic heart disease and diabetes, followed by Tamil Nadu.
 2. West Bengal topped with the largest number of stroke cases followed by Odisha.
 3. Kerala was ranked at the top for the burden of cancer, followed by Assam.

Related Information

'India State-level Disease Burden Initiative' report

- The report is a joint initiative of:
 1. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
 2. The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)
 3. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

4. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source- The Hindu

3. UN gets access to Rakhine for the first time since Aug. 2017.

Related Information

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC)

- It is a United Nations programme.
- Formed in 14th December 1950.
- It mandates to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people, and assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.
- UNHCR was created in 1950, during the aftermath of World War II.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- The UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, once in 1954 and again in 1981.

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions and agencies

Source- The Hindu

4. Hunger reached 'alarming' ten-year high in 2017: UN

According to the latest edition of the UN's annual multi-agency flagship report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World:

- People went hungry in 2017 than at any time in the previous decade as food deprivation on the rise due to conflict and climate change.
- The number of undernourished globally increased to 821 million in 2017.
- It means that one in every nine people does not have enough to eat.
- The number of undernourished people has increased from 777 million to 821 million over the last two years.
- The report emphasizes that climate variability and extremes are already undermining food production in some regions.

- If action to mitigate disaster risk reduction and preparedness is not taken, the situation will only get worse.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source- AIR

5. India among nations with 'no or little enforcement' against foreign bribery: Report.

India is among four countries with "no or little enforcement" mechanism to check foreign bribery, according to a report released by anti-corruption organisation Transparency International.

2018 edition of the 'Exporting Corruption Report'.

- India was among 16 countries targeted by alleged bribery.
- China, Hong Kong, India and Singapore, all with 2 percent or more of world exports are not parties to the OECD (Anti-Bribery) Convention.
- They are classified for the first time and all fall into the lowest level (little or no enforcement).
- The Indian government does not publish statistics on its foreign bribery enforcement and does not disclose such statistics on request.
- Inadequacies in the implementation of the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Treaty.

Related Information

Transparency International (TI)

- TI is an international non-governmental organization.
- Headquarters in Berlin, Germany.
- Founded in 1993.
- Its nonprofit purpose is to take action to combat global corruption and prevent criminal activities arising from corruption.
- It publishes, for example, the Global Corruption Barometer and the Corruption Perceptions Index.

Mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT)

A mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) is an agreement between two or more countries for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information in an effort to enforce public or criminal laws.

OECD Anti-Bribery Convention

- The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention was adopted in 1997.
- To address the supply side of international corruption.
- There are now 44 parties to the convention.
- 36 of the members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development).
- India is not a member.

Topic-GS-3- International agencies

Source- Indian Express

6. Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) signed an agreement with the MEA for the implementation of e-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati) Network Project

Related Information

e-VidyaBharati (tele-education) and e-AarogyaBharati (tele-medicine).

- E-VBAB Network Project is primarily a technological upgrade and extension of the Pan-African e-Network Project.
- It was implemented in 48 partner countries across Africa from 2009 till 2017.
- e-VidyaBharati is for tele-education and e-AarogyaBharati is for tele-medicine.
- The platform will link, through a web-based technology, various educational institutions, and hospitals in India and the participating African countries.
- A Data Centre and Disaster Recovery Centre will be established in India.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral relations

Source- Business line

7. India's First Missile Tracking Ship VC-11184 All Set For Trials

Related information

VC11184

- VC11184 is the designation of a missile tracking ocean surveillance ship.
- Being constructed by Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) for Indian Navy.
- The purpose of the ship is to support the development of India's strategic weapons and the Indian Ballistic Missile Defence Programme.

- The ship will be fitted with a primary X band and a secondary S-band active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar.
- It has a long open deck with ample space for installing multiple missile tracking antennas.
- It will have a crew complement of 300 personnel and will carry a single helicopter.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu

14.09.2018

1. Country's first Tribal Tourism Circuit to be launched in Chhattisgarh

- The country's first tribal circuit tourism project under the Swadesh Darshan scheme will be inaugurated at Gangrel in Chhattisgarh.
- The project covers 13 sites in Chhattisgarh which are Jashpur, Kunkuri, Mainpat, Kamleshpur, Maheshpur, Kurdar, Sarodadadar, Gangrel, Kondagaon, Nathiya Nawagaon, Jagdalpur, Chitrakoot and Tirthgarh.

Related Information

- Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched in 2014 -15 and it is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of Tourism, for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner.
- Under the tribal circuit theme of the scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned 4 projects to Nagaland, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh for Rs. 380 crore.
- Major components sanctioned in the tribal circuit theme include eco log huts, craft haats, souvenir shops or kiosk, tourist reception, and facilitation centers etc.

Topic- GS-2- Government Schemes

Source- AIR

2. India's first missile tracking ship is readying for sea trials

- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials of India's first missile tracking ship.
- The keel of the ship, which was laid on June 30, 2014, is being built for the

National Technical Research Organisation, the technical intelligence agency working directly under the supervision of the PMO and the National Security Adviser.

- Considered a "topmost secret project", a lot of confidentiality is being maintained in executing the project costing about ₹750 crore.
- It will be named after its induction into the Indian Navy. For now, it is simply referred as VC 11184.

300-strong crew

- The ship was built inside the covered dry dock.
- It has the capacity to carry 300-strong crew with hi-tech gadgets and communication equipment, powered by two diesel engines, and a large deck capable of the helicopter landing.

Topic- GS-3- Defence

Source- The Hindu

3. Centre provides ₹ 440 cr to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

- Agriculture Minister provided over ₹ 440 crore cheque to the NDDB from the Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), marking the formal launch of the fund set up to provide soft loans to modernize and raise the capacity of dairy cooperatives.
- NABARD has set up the DIDF with a corpus of ₹ 8,004 crores to bring more dairy farmers into organized milk marketing through cooperatives.
- The fund is implemented through the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- The DIDF is aimed to create an additional milk processing capacity of 126 lakh liter per day, milk drying capacity of 210 million tonnes (MT) per day and milk chilling capacity of 140 lakh liter per day.
- India is the largest milk producer in the world with an estimated production of 176.35 MT.
- The vision 2022 document has pegged the country's milk production at 254.5 MT.

Topic- GS-2-Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors

Source- The Hindu Business Line

4. INMAS develops India's first indigenous anti-nuclear medical kit

- Scientists at a central research institute claim to have developed India's first indigenous medical kit that may ensure protection from serious injuries and faster healing of wounds resulting from nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage.
- Developed in India for the first time, it's a potent alternative to similar kits that were till now being procured from strategically advanced nations such as the US & Russia at much higher prices.
- The contents include an advanced form of Prussian blue tablets, highly effective in incorporating Radio-Cesium (Cs-137) and Radio Thallium, among the most feared radioisotopes in nuclear bombs that destroy human body cells.
- The tablet provides 100 percent absorption from the gut and other portals of entry to the human body.
- The kit has been developed for the armed, paramilitary and police forces only as they are the first ones likely to get exposed to radiation -- be it during nuclear, chemical and biomedical (NCB) warfare or a rescue operation after a nuclear accident.
- The kit also has an Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) injection that traps uranium in the guts and blood of victims during a nuclear accident or warfare.
- The kit also has Ca-EDTA Respiratory Fluid, which is the inhalation formula for chelation, or grabbing, of heavy metals and radioactive elements deposited in lungs through inhalation at nuclear accident sites.

Related Information

Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS)

- It is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- Located in New Delhi, it is involved in Nuclear medicine research and responding to nuclear accidents and explosions.

Topic- GS-3- Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu Business Line

5. National Health Mission Director Manoj Jhalani bags prestigious UN award

- National Health Mission Director Manoj Jhalani has been conferred the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force Award for his outstanding contribution towards the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Related Information

United Nations Interagency Task Force (UNIATF)

- The United Nations Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates the activities of relevant UN organizations and other inter-governmental organizations to support governments to meet high-level commitments to respond to NCD epidemics worldwide.
- The commitments were made by Heads of State and Government in the 2011 Political Declaration on NCDs.
- The task force was established by the UN Secretary-General in June 2013 and placed under the leadership of WHO.

Topic-GS-2-Important International institutions

Source- Business Standards

6. Nuakhai Festival

- The festival of Nuakhai is celebrated in Odisha.
- During this harvest festival of western Odisha, new produce Nabannis offered to presiding deities.
- After offering the Nabann, people relish different types of delicacies prepared from the newly harvested crop.
- The Nuakhai Juhar is a major ritual of the festival, during which greetings are exchanged with friends, relatives and well-wishers.

Topic- GS-1-Art and Culture

Source- AIR

15.09.2018

1. Power Ministry launches the ambitious program on energy efficiency in Chillers.

- The Chiller Star Labelling Program has been formulated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- The program envisages providing star rating in terms of its energy performance.
- Initially, the program is launched on the voluntary basis and will be valid upto 31st December 2020.
- Chillers are used extensively for space conditioning of buildings and for industrial process cooling applications.
- Chillers, being energy intensive system, contribute more than 40 percent of the total energy consumption in commercial buildings.
- Then 500 million units of electricity would be saved in 2019 along with Green House Gases (GHG) reduction of 0.5 million-ton equivalent of CO₂. It is also anticipated to save more than 4 Billion units of electricity in the year 2030 with a CO₂ emission reduction of 3.5 million ton through this program.

Related Information

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency

- BEE is under the Ministry of Power.
- Formed on 1st March 2002.
- Constituted by Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors.

Source-PIB

2. EAM Sushma Swaraj to co-chair the 23rd meeting of IRIGC-TEC with Russian Dy PM in Moscow.

Related Information

Inter-Governmental Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC)

- IRIGC-TEC is a standing body.
- It meets annually.
- It does activities of bilateral cooperation in the fields of bilateral trade and investment, science and technology, culture and other issues of mutual interest.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral relations

Source- AIR

3. National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) releases HIV Estimations 2017

The HIV Estimations 2017 is the 14th round in the series of HIV Estimations under National AIDS Control Programme (NACP).

Key Highlights:

- Overall, the impact of the programme has been significant with more than 80% decline in estimated new infection from the peak of the epidemic in 1995.
- As per UNAIDS 2018 report, the global average for the decline in new infections and AIDS-related deaths from peak has been 47% and 51% respectively.
- As per the report, in 2017, India had around 21.40 lakh people living with HIV (PLHIV) with the adult prevalence of 0.22%.
- Around 87.58 thousand new HIV infections and 69.11 thousand AIDS-related deaths happened in 2017 while around 22,675 mothers needed Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV.

Related Information

The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO):

- NACO established in 1992.
- Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is the nodal organization for the formulation of policy and implementation of programs for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in India.

NOTE-

- NACO undertakes HIV estimations biennially.
- In collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Medical Statistics (NIMS).
- The first round of HIV estimation in India was done in 1998.
- While the last round was done in 2015.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors.

Source- AIR

4. Government moves to stabilize the rupee

Key measures to be taken into consideration:

- FPIs' investment in a single corporate entity cannot exceed 20% of its corporate bond portfolio will be reviewed.
- The condition that FPIs cannot invest more than 50% of an issue of corporate bonds.
- The government has exempted all masala bonds issues until March 31, 2019, from withholding tax.
- It has also said it will remove restrictions on Indian banks on market-making for such bonds and on underwriting them.
- The government will also review the mandatory hedging condition for infrastructure loans borrowed under the external commercial borrowing (ECB) route.
- Manufacturing companies borrowing up to \$50 million through ECBs will be able to do so only for a one-year term as against the three-year term allowed earlier.

NOTE-

- Masala bonds are rupee-denominated instruments issued abroad by Indian borrowers.
- The advantage of these bonds is that any depreciation in the rupee will not affect the borrower.
- Presently there is no compulsion on borrowers to hedge infrastructure loans.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source- The Hindu

5. Super Typhoon 'Mangkhut'

It is blasting the northern coast of the Philippines with strong winds and heavy rain.

Related Information

Typhoon Mangkhut

- The world's strongest tropical storm.
- It is a Type 5 storm.
- It has winds of 200km/h (125 mph) and gusts reaching up to 330km/h.

Topic-GS-1- Disaster

Source- The Hindu

6. The Great Indian Bustard's last sigh

- The Great Indian Bustard or Indian bustard is a bustard found on the Indian subcontinent.
- A large bird with a horizontal body and long bare legs, giving it an ostrich-like appearance.
- The bird is among the heaviest of the flying birds.
- The bird is found in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat states of India.
- Protection:
 1. It is protected under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 of India.
 2. Critically Endangered under IUCN.

Topic-GS-3-Conservation

Source- Livemint

7. Rajasthan's forest minister inaugurates state's first lion safari

Rajasthan's first lion safari was inaugurated at Nahargarh Biological Park.

Related Information

Nahargarh Biological Park

- It is in the vicinity of Nahargarh Fort.
- The park is located on the Delhi-Jaipur National Highway, nearly 12 kilometers from Jaipur.
- Located in the Aravalli foothills, it offers a panoramic view of the landscape.

Topic-GS-Conservation

Source- Business Standard

8. Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund.

Related Information

Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund.

- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (DADF).
- It will be implemented from 2017-18 to 2028-29.
- In addition to this, many skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers will get employment, directly and indirectly.

The National Dairy Development Board

- The National Dairy Development Board is an institution of national importance set up by an Act of Parliament of India.
- The main office is in Anand, Gujarat with regional offices throughout the country.
- Formed on 16th July 1965.

Topic-GS-2- Government interventions in various sectors.

Source-PIB

17.09.2018

1. PSLV-C42 Mission

- ISRO's PSLV in its 44th flight put into orbit two UK earth observation satellites in a textbook launch.
- Both the satellites together weighed about 889 kg, and the commercial launch was carried out under an arrangement Surrey Satellite Technologies Limited (SSTL) and ISRO's commercial arm Antrix Corporation Limited.
- NovaSAR is an S-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite intended for forest mapping, land use and ice cover monitoring and disaster monitoring while S-14 is a high-resolution Optical Earth Observation Satellite, used for surveying resources, environment monitoring, urban management and for the disaster monitoring.

Related Info

- The PSLV-C42 was only the third launch of PSLV after the rare failure it encountered in August last year due to problems in the heat shield.
- PSLV is a Medium-lift launch vehicle.
- It was developed to allow India to launch its Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites into sun-synchronous orbits, a service that was, until the advent of the PSLV in 1993, commercially available only from Russia.
- PSLV can also launch small size satellites into geostationary transfer orbit (GTO).

Topic-GS-3-Science and technology

Source-Times of India

2. Matru Vandana Saptah

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) recently marked the anniversary of the launch of the scheme as Matru Vandana Saptah.

- During this week, the States/UTs focused on IEC activities, pendencies under various parameters and escalating daily entry rate of applications.
- National level achievement of the scheme post a year's implementation on grounds is 48.11 Lakhs of women

enrollment under the scheme till September.

- Himachal Pradesh has been rated as the best-performing state in the country in implementing the PMMVY.

About PMMVY:

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), previously Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY), is a maternity benefits program run by the government of India.
- It was introduced in 2010 and is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.
- It provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare.
- In 2013, the scheme was brought under the National Food Security Act, 2013 to implement the provision of cash maternity benefit of ₹6,000 stated in the Act.

Topic-GS-2-Welfare initiative

Source-PIB

3. MPATGM (Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile)

- India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has conducted the first successful test firing of a new indigenously designed and developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM).
- The first successful test firing was followed by another MPATGM test launch on September 16, which also took place at the Ahmednagar test range.
- The MPATGM is a third-generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), which has been under development by DRDO in partnership with Indian defense contractor VEM Technologies Ltd.
- Fitted with a high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead, the MPATGM reportedly boasts a top attack capability and has a maximum engagement range of about 2.5 km.

Topic- GS-3-Science & technology

Source-The Diplomat

4. **Global State of Democracy Index**

The IDEA released its report The Global State of Democracy Index.

- The report records a significant dip in India's record on civil liberties, personal integrity, and security, freedom of association, media integrity, gender equality.
- India and Sri Lanka have maintained relatively high scores in representative governments.
- At the country level, Afghanistan and Nepal have seen the most improvement in ensuring fundamental rights in the Asian region.
- South Asia shows a steady improvement on the yardstick that measures gender equality with Nepal standing out.

About GSoDI:

- In 2017, International IDEA launched the first Global State of Democracy report. The report provides evidence-based analysis and data on the global and regional state of democracy.
- Through six different chapters, the report also zooms in on challenges to democracy:
 - (a) Migration
 - (b) Inequality
 - (c) Political parties
 - (d) Representation
 - (e) Money in politics
 - (f) Democratic backsliding
- The Global State of Democracy Index (GSoD) looks at the trends in democratization from 1975 to 2017.

Topic-GS-2- Important aspects of governance

Source- The Indian Express

5. EyeROV TUNA

- India's first underwater robotic drone was launched and handed over to the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO.

About the drone:

- It can send real-time videos of ships and other underwater structures to help with their repair and maintenance.
- It can be e-controlled using a laptop or a joystick.

- The robotic drone can be navigated up to a depth of 50 meters to take real-time HD video images to examine ship hulls or undersea cables or bridge moorings, eliminating the need for costlier and riskier manual inspection by divers.
- The development of the product of EyeROV was largely supported by Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) through various schemes.

Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)

- The Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory or NPOL is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- NPOL is responsible for the Research & Development of sonar systems, technologies for underwater surveillance, the study of the ocean environment and underwater materials.

Topic- GS-3-Developing new technology.

Source- Times of India

6. Rajnath Singh to inaugurate smart border fence.

- Government to inaugurate two pilot projects of "smart" border fencing built under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme.
- The two projects, each covering a 5.5 km-border stretch along the International Border in Jammu.
- It is set to get a first-of-a-kind high-tech surveillance system that will create an invisible electronic barrier on land, water and even in air and underground.
- It will help the Border Security Force (BSF) detect and foil infiltration bids in the most difficult terrains.

Related Information

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) programme.

After the Pathankot attack, the government planned to stop infiltration on 2900 kilometers western border with Pakistan under the name Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS).

Key features:

CIBMS involves deployment of a range of state-of-the-art surveillance technologies

- Thermal Imagers.
- Infra-red and laser-based intruder alarms that form an invisible land fence.
- Aerostats for aerial surveillance.
- Unattended ground sensors that can help detect intrusion bids through tunnels, radars, sonar systems to secure riverine borders.
- Fiber-optic sensors and a command and control system that shall receive data from all surveillance device in real time.

Topic-GS-3-Defence and security

Source- Economic Times

7. Japan conducts the first submarine drill in disputed South China Sea

- Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force carried out a "practical" anti-submarine drill, including an exercise to spot enemy submarines with sonar devices.
- Submarine Kuroshio joined three Japanese warships in waters just southwest of the China-controlled Scarborough Shoal.

Related information

Scarborough Shoal

- Scarborough Shoal forms a triangle-shaped chain of reefs and rocks.
- It is a disputed territory claimed by the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Philippines.
- It formerly was administered by the Philippines, however, due to the 2012 Scarborough Shoal standoff, where China sent warships to invade the shoal, the administration of the shoal was taken by the People's Republic of China.

Topic-GS-3-Security

Source- Economic Times

8. India's only wetland cat is under multiple threats

Related Information

Fishing Cat

- The fishing cat is a symbolic species of floodplains, deltas and coastal wetlands of South and Southeast Asia.
- They have a patchy distribution from Sind in Pakistan to Cambodia.
- In India, it is largely restricted to the floodplains of Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Sundarbans Delta and smaller coastal wetlands along the Bay of Bengal formed by Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna rivers.

Conservation efforts

- In 2012, the West Bengal government officially declared the Fishing Cat as the State Animal.
- The Fishing Cat was recently downlisted to "Vulnerable" from "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List.

Topic-GS-3-Conservation efforts

Source – Down to earth

9. India's first exclusive dog park comes up in Hyderabad

- Hyderabad is set to get country's first exclusive dog park.
- The park, which is spread over in 1.3 acres, has been developed by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation at cost of Rs. 1.1 crore.
- The park will offer dog training and exercise equipment, splash pool, two lawns, an amphitheater, loo, cafe a walking track, off-leash areas for dogs.

Topic- GS-3- Environment

Source- Financial Express

18.09.2018

1. HDI report finds inequality high in India, higher in Pakistan & Bangladesh

- The latest human development index (HDI) report released by the United Nations Development Programme shows India's inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) at 0.468 or a 26.8% drop from its unadjusted HDI of 0.640.

- On both indices (the higher the better), India is ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- India climbed one spot to 130 among 189 countries.
- Top ranking
 - Norway
 - Switzerland
 - Australia
 - Ireland
 - Germany
- While Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI's measurement of national achievements in health, education and income.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: SRI LANKA LEADS NEIGHBOURHOOD

Country (rank)	HDI	LE at birth	Expected years schooling	Mean years schooling	GNI per capita
Sri Lanka (76)	0.770	75.5	13.9	10.9	11,326
India (130)	0.640	68.8	12.3	6.4	6,353
Bhutan (134)	0.612	70.6	12.3	3.1	8,065
Bangla (136)	0.608	72.8	11.4	5.81	3,677
Myanmar (148)	0.578	66.7	10.0	4.9	5,567
Nepal (149)	0.574	70.6	12.2	4.9	2,471
Pakistan (150)	0.562	66.6	8.6	5.2	5,311

GNI (gross national income) per capita in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (P) Source: UNDP report

Related Information

The Human Development Index (HDI)

- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistic (composite index) of:
 - Life expectancy
 - Education
 - Per capita income indicators
- The HDI was developed by Indian economist Amartya Sen and Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq which was further used to measure the country's development by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- The 2010 Human Development Report introduced an Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI).

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- UNDP is the United Nations' global development network.
- The UNDP was founded on 22nd November 1965.
- With the merging of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund.

- Headquartered in New York City.
- It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries.
- The organization operates in 177 countries, where it works with local governments to meet development challenges and develop local capacity.

Topic-GS-2-Social sector

Source – Indian Express

2. Child death below 5 declined faster in India: UN.

- The reports have been released by the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME).
- UNIGME is a combination of Unicef, the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Population Division and the World Bank Group.
- It says that the death of children below the age of five continues to steadily reduce in India, declining from nearly 22 percent in 2012 to 18 percent in 2017, which is now for the first time below the one million marks.

Key Highlights:

- The under-five mortality rate of India at 39 per 1000 now equals that of the world, highlighting the much faster decline by India in the last five years as compared to the global decline.
- According to the report, the gender gap in child survival has reduced almost four-fold in the last five years, with under-five mortality of girl child now being 2.5 percent higher, compared to nearly 10 percent in 2012.
- An estimated 6.3 million children under 15 years of age died in 2017 and the vast majority of these deaths, 5.4 million occurred in the first five years of life.
- Globally in 2017, half of all deaths under five years of age took place in sub-Saharan Africa and another 30 percent in Southern Asia.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, one in 13 children died before their fifth birthday.

- In high-income countries, that number was one in 185.
- In 2017, 2.5 million newborns died in their first month. A baby born in sub-Saharan Africa or in Southern Asia was nine times more likely to die in the first month than a baby born in a high-income country.
- The most children under five die due to preventable or treatable causes such as complications during birth, pneumonia, diarrhea, neonatal sepsis and malaria.
- Under-five mortality rates among children in rural areas are, on average, 50 percent higher than among children in urban areas.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source- Economic Times

3. Mt Everest Friendship Exercise

- The second edition of Nepal-China joint military exercise - Mt Everest Friendship Exercise-2018 also called as Sagarmatha Friendship-2018, took place in China's southwestern Sichuan province.
- It will focus on combating terror and disaster management training.
- This joint exercise is aimed at promoting military relations and enhance interoperability between armies of Nepal and China.

NOTE

- Sagarmatha is the Nepali name for Mt Everest, which stands in between both the countries.
- The first exercise was held in April 2017, at Maharajgunj in Kathmandu (capital of Nepal).

Topic-GS-3-Defence and Security

Source- The Hindu

4. Asia Pacific Policy Group says Pakistan action against terror funding not satisfactory

Related Information

Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

- The APG is the FATF-style regional body for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It is an inter-governmental (international) organization.
- Founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- The APG consists of 41 member jurisdictions and a number of observer jurisdictions and international/regional observer organizations.
- The APG has two Co-Chairs: one permanent and one two-year term rotating Co-Chair.
- The APG secretariat is located in Sydney, Australia.

NOTE-

- The permanent Co-Chair is Australia.
- The current rotating Co-Chair is Bangladesh.

Topic-GS-2-Important international institutions

Source- The Hindu

5. The US ranks near the bottom on the commitment to the development

Related Information

Commitment to Development Index (CDI)

- It is an index which ranks 27 of the world's richest countries on their dedication to policies that benefit people living in the poorer nations.
- It is an annual report.
- Published by the Washington-based Center for Global Development (CGD).
- Top Countries:
 - Sweden
 - Denmark
 - Germany and Finland
- The US remained in the 23rd spot out of 27 rich countries in the survey.
- Only Poland, Greece, South Korea, and Japan were rated lower than the US.

Topic-GS-2- Important agencies

Source- Economic Times

6. One manual scavenging death every five days: Official data

- One person has died every five days, on an average, while cleaning sewers and septic tanks across the country, according to numbers collated by the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).
- The data, which is based mostly on newspaper reports and numbers supplied by a few state governments.

- It is the first such official attempt to account for the deaths of sewer and septic tank cleaners.

Key Highlights:

- According to NCSK, 123 people employed in hazardous forms of manual scavenging lost their lives while at work since January 2017.
- The last one week alone has seen a total of six deaths in the National Capital Region.
- There are no numbers available on those employed in sewer and septic tank cleaning.
- All previous and ongoing exercises at compiling data have been restricted to accounting for those removing human excreta from dry latrines, open drains, and single pit toilets in villages.
- In the reported instances are high in:
 - Haryana
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Delhi
 - Gujarat
- The NCSK data shows Maharashtra as having had just two deaths in this period.
- As per NCSK data, the Rs 10 lakh compensation that is mandated under the law in case of manual scavenging deaths, has been paid in only 70 of the 123 cases.

Related Information

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)

- NCSK was constituted on 12th August 1994.
- It is a statutory body.
- Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The Chairperson and Members of the Commission undertake extensive touring of the country to study the socio-economic and living conditions of Safai Karamcharis and their dependents.
- During their visits, the members of the Commission interact with the Safai Karamcharis- both individually as well as through their representative associations.
- The grievances of the Safai Karamcharis are then taken up by the

Commission with the concerned local civil and police authorities.

- Based on its findings, the Commission gives its recommendations for rehabilitation and liberation of Safai Karamcharis from the scourge of manual scavenging to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment from time to time as well as in its Annual Reports.

Topic-GS-1-Social Empowerment

Source- Indian Express

7. Government initiates consolidation – amalgamated entity to be India’s third largest bank

- Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, and Dena Bank may consider amalgamation.
- It will be the first-ever three-way bank amalgamation process commences.
- With a combined business of Rs. 14.82 lakh crore, it will become India’s Third Largest Bank.

Topic-GS-3-Indian Economy

8. PM Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina to jointly flag off construction of Indo-Bangla pipeline project

Related information

Indo-Bangla pipeline project

- The 130-kilometer pipeline will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.
- The estimated will be completed in 30 months time.
- The capacity of the pipeline will be 1 million metric tons per annum.
- The six-kilometer Indian leg of the pipeline project will be implemented by the Assam-based Numaligarh Refinery Limited.
- The remaining 124 kilometers of the pipeline project will be implemented by Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.
- The project will replace the existing practice of sending diesel by rail covering a distance of 510 kilometers.

Topic-GS- 3-Infrastructure

Source- AIR

19.09.2018

1. Union Cabinet approves the ordinance to make triple talaq a punishable offense

- Union Cabinet approved the ordinance to make triple talaq a punishable offense.
- The Bill makes instant triple talaq, delivered in any form, a criminal offense.
- It proposes a three-year jail term for a Muslim man who divorces his wife by uttering the word 'talaq' thrice.
- The Bill to make 'talaq-e-biddat' void and illegal has provisions for imprisonment and fine for anyone invoking it.
- It also deals with subsistence allowance to a Muslim woman and her children by the estranged husband along with a provision for custodial rights of minor children.

**Related Information
Ordinance**

- An ordinance is an executive order issued by the President of India/Governor of State that holds the same force and effect as an Act passed by the Parliament/state legislature.

Ordinance power of President

- The President has the power to issue ordinances under **Article 123** of the Constitution.
- If at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist, he may promulgate Ordinances.
- The maximum validity of an ordinance is 6 months and 6 weeks.
- It shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament and shall cease to operate at the expiration of **six weeks** from the reassembly of Parliament, or, before the expiration of that period resolutions disapproving it are passed by both Houses.

Topic-GS-1-India Polity

Source- Times of India

2. Union Home Secretary launches 'e-Sahaj' portal for grant of Security Clearance.

- The portal will facilitate an applicant to submit the application online and also to view the status of his application from time to time.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal authority for granting security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before license permit, permission, contract etc are issued to companies, bidders, and individuals by the administrative ministry.
- The objective of national security clearance is to evaluate potential security threats, including economic threats, and provide risk assessment before clearing investment and proposals in key sectors.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

3. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission NULM

Related Information

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission(DAY- NULM)

- It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA).
- On 24th September 2013 by replacing the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).
- The NULM will focus on organizing urban poor in their strong grassroots level institutions, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment venture by ensuring easy access to credit.
- The Mission is aimed at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner.
- In addition, the Mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors

Topic-GS-1-Social Empowerment

Source-PIB

4. IT launches C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS) for enhancing Good Governance

Related Information

C-DAC Information Media Server (CIMS)

- C-DAC Information Media Server is a dedicated computer appliance having specialized application software to provide audio and video on demand.
- This low-cost affordable system is built with a single board computer having the power and energy efficient multi-core processor.
- It does not require any special purpose internet service provider or data connectivity.
- The common feature includes displaying text, images for viewing, video streaming, e-brochure; for viewing or downloading for offline reference.
- CIMS is very easy to set up and configures for deployments at locations such as:
 - Parliament (Today in Rajya Sabha, Members details)
 - Education Institutes (eBooks, Timetable, news of the day, notices)
 - Railways (Train running information, station layout maps)
 - Hospitals (Doctors on duty, patient records)

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

5. Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines installed in MeitY

- Common Services Centers, through its initiative for women's health and hygiene, named 'Stree Swabhiman'.

Related Information

Stree Swabhiman Initiative

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has launched Stree Swabhiman Initiative.
- It is striving to create a sustainable model for providing affordable and accessible sanitary products close to the homes of adolescent women and girls in rural areas.
- The initiative is driven by awareness and personalized outreach by women entrepreneurs who produce and market sanitary napkins themselves.
- The initiative aspires to play its part in reducing the gender divide in access

to development opportunities for women and girls which sadly affects access to education, health, and workforce participation.

- Under this initiative, semi-automatic and manual sanitary napkin manufacturing units will be set up at CSC for producing affordable and eco-friendly sanitary napkins.
- These micro manufacturing units will be operated by women entrepreneurs and generate employment for 8-10 women.

Topic-GS-1-Empowerment of women

Source-PIB

6. Medical Cyclotron Facility Cyclone-30 Became Operational at Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC), Kolkata.

- Cyclone-30, the biggest cyclotron in India for medical application became operational this month when 30 MeV beam reached the Faraday Cup for the first time.
- Subsequently, the beam from this facility was used to produce 18F (Fluorine-18 isotope).
- The cyclone-30 facility at VECC, Kolkata, a Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) unit, will have many unique features, which are first of its kind in many ways.
- This facility will provide for affordable radioisotopes and related radiopharmaceuticals for the entire country especially, for Eastern India.
- Also export potential for the Germanium-68/Gallium-68 generator for in-situ production of Gallium-68 and Palladium-103 isotopes, used for breast cancer diagnosis and prostate cancer treatment.

NOTE

- Cyclotrons are used to produce radioisotopes for diagnostic and therapeutic use for cancer care.

Topic-GS-3- Science and Technology

Source-PIB

7. Govt panel suggests changes to RBI's payment guidelines: Report

- The list of recommendations includes:

- The formation of an independent Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)
- Replacement of the central bank governor as chairperson with a person appointed by the government in consultation with RBI.
- The Bill provides for the PRB to be an independent payments regulator.
- It provides for the RBI to have significant representation on the PRB and envisages a formal mechanism for coordination between the RBI and the PRB so that the regulation of payments, insofar as it may be relevant in the context of financial stability, monetary policy, and credit policy, is achieved harmoniously.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source- Hindu Business Line

8. Germany launches world's first hydrogen-powered train

- Germany has rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train.
- The hydrogen-powered train is costlier but eco-friendlier.

Topic- GS-3-Environment

Source- Business Today

20.09.2018

1. Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna Rolled Out.

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a new scheme- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.
- It is for Insured Persons covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act.
- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to their Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
- The eligibility for availing Super Specialty treatment for dependents of

Insured Person has now been relaxed to the insurable employment of one year with 156 days of contributions.

- It has also approved increasing the funeral expenses from existing Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000 being paid on the death of Insured Person.

Related Information

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

- Employee's State Insurance (ESI) is a self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers.
- This fund is managed by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to the ESI Act 1948.
- ESIC is an autonomous body.
- Under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

Topic-GS-2-Statutory, regulatory, quasi-judicial bodies

Source-PIB

2. National Registry of Sexual Offenders to be rolled out

- The database will be maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- The database will include names, photographs, Aadhaar numbers, residential address, DNA samples, fingerprints and Personal Account Numbers (PANs) of convicted sexual offenders.
- The information will only be available to law enforcement agencies for investigation and employee verification.
- The compilation will be done on the basis of information from prisons across the country.
- Offenders will be classified based on their criminal history to determine if "they pose a serious danger to the community"
- The database will include information on arrested and charge-sheeted offenders. However, limited access will be granted to officers after clearance.
- Juvenile offenders are likely to be included in the database at a later stage.

- According to the report, the registry will maintain data:
 - For 15 years of those cases classified as posing the low danger.
 - Moderate danger will be stored for 25 years.
 - For habitual offenders, violent criminals, convicted gang rapists and in case of custodial rapes, the data will be stored permanently.

NOTE

- This will make India the ninth country in the world to set up and maintain a database of sexual offenders.
- Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom are the other countries where the database can only be accessed by law enforcement agencies.
- In the United States, the data can be accessed by the public.

Related Information

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)

- NCRB is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- NCRB is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It is part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Formed in 11th March 1986.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source- Economic Times

3. Ministry of Health introduces the budget dashboard

- The budget dashboard is an internal web portal comprising information on budget, expenditure and bill payment positions.
- The 'budget dashboard' incorporates features for Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Health Research.
- The internal web portal is user identity and password enabled.
- On 'dashboard budget', expenditure information is available in snapshots.
- Details on various categories, such as flagship schemes, central sector expenditure are also available.

- The dashboard has unique features **for bill position** of all India pay and accounts offices (PAOs) of this ministry and it reflects the reason for return of bills.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source- AIR

4. Health Ministry launches sputum sample transportation Through Dept of Post

Related Information

Nikshay Version 2.0

- It is a web-based application of the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP).
- It provides the better user interface and data structures.
- It facilitates monitoring of universal access to TB patients data.

Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP)

- It is state-run tuberculosis (TB) control initiative of the Government of India.
- Launched in 1997.
- Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- As per the National Strategic Plan 2012–17, the program has a vision of achieving a "TB free India".
- It aims to achieve Universal Access to TB control services.
- The program provides, various free of cost, quality tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment services across the country through the government health system.
- It seeks to employ the WHO-recommended tuberculosis control strategy, DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course), to the Indian scenario.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to the social sector

Source-PIB

5. Exercise Avaiandra-18

- Exercise Avaiandra 18 is being conducted at Lipetsk, Russia from 17 Sep to 28 Sep 18 and will be conducted in Jodhpur, India from 10 Dec to 22 Dec 18.

Related Information

Exercise Avaiindra

- Exercise Avaiindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation.
- First Avaiindra was conducted in 2014.
- It has been planned as a bi-annual exercise.
- The aim of the exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in a bi-lateral scenario.

Topic-GS-3-Defence and Security

Source-PIB

6. Cabinet approves Revised Cost Estimate of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

Related information

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)

- DRIP is a state sector scheme with center's assistance.
- The project was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission (CWC).
- It is under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
- DRIP has been taken up with loan assistance of the World Bank.
- It is for rehabilitation and improvement of about 250 dams.
- Initially it is in seven States (namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand).

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source-PIB

7. PM to lay the foundation stone for India International Convention and Expo Centre, Dwarka

India International Convention and Expo Centre

- The Centre at Dwarka would be a world-class state-of-the-art Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre.
- It would provide facilities like financial, hospitality and retail services.
- It will rank among the top 10 in the world and the biggest indoor exhibition space in India.
- The construction will be in line with green building principles and the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum rating standards.

- It will be developed in two phases. Phase-I and II will be completed by December 2019 and December 2024, respectively.
- IICC complex will have a dedicated underground Metro station which will be an extension of the airport high-speed metro corridor and is being constructed by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.
- The project is implemented by India International Convention & Exhibition Centre Limited, a 100% Government owned company under the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source-PIB

8. States set to miss 20% debt-to-GDP ratio target by FY23: Report

- Though the Centre may manage to achieve the debt-to-GDP ratio target of 40 percent by FY23, the states achieving the 20 percent target looks difficult as most of them have not budgeted so far.

According to the report by India Ratings' chief economist, DK Pant:

- The states' aggregate debt-to-GDP ratio for FY19 has been budgeted at 24.3 percent.
- According to their FY19 budgets, only 10 of the 20 states will have the debt-to-GSDP ratio of under 25 percent in FY19.
- Eight states namely Himachal, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, and Rajasthan had debt-to-GSDP ratios in excess of 30 percent in FY18.
- These periods were characterized by an average minimum nominal GDP growth of about 14 percent per annum and average aggregate revenue receipt-to-GDP ratio of around 20 percent.
- Though the aggregate revenue receipt-to-GDP ratio has been budgeted at 22 percent for FY19, achieving a nominal GDP growth of about 14 percent looks difficult.

NOTE

- The NK Singh committee, which is reviewing the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act of 2003, has suggested that the fiscal policy try to reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio to 60 percent by FY23, with the Centre's at 40 percent and the states' combined at 20 percent, instead of improving the revenue to fiscal deficit ratio.

Topic-GS-3-Indian Economy
Source- Economic Times

21.09.2018

1. Cyclonic storm 'DAYE' crosses Odisha coast; Triggers heavy rainfall in several parts of the state

- Cyclonic storm 'Daye' crossed near the Gopalpur coast in Odisha.
- Under the impact, heavy rain accompanied by high-speed wind occurred in coastal and southern parts of the state.
- The cyclone system lay centered over south Odisha, about 40-kilometers west-north-west of Gopalpur coast and 150-kilometer east-south-east of Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi district.

NOTE

- Kalahandi is the main catchment of basins of Tel, Bansadhara, Nagavali and Indravati rivers and incessant rains in the district will affect other parts of the State.

Topic-GS-1-Important geographical phenomena
Source- AIR

2. World Bank approves Country Partnership Framework for India to support its transition to higher middle-income country

- World Bank Board has endorsed an ambitious five-year Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for India.
- It aligns with New Delhi's objectives of high, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- The move is aimed at supporting India's transition to a higher middle-income country by addressing some of its key development priorities such as resource efficient and inclusive growth, job creation and building its human capital.

- The framework is expected to bring between 25 and 30 billion US Dollars in financial support from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Related Information

- The World Bank Group (WBG) is a family of five international organizations that make leveraged loans to developing countries.
- It is the largest and most well-known development bank in the world and is an observer at the United Nations Development Group

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries.
- Established in 1945.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector.
- Established in 1956.

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) was created to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives.
- Established in 1988.

World bank classification of countries

- The World Bank assigns the world's economies into four income groups — high, upper-middle, lower-middle, and low based on GNI (gross national income) per capita calculated.
- The units for this measure and for the thresholds is current US Dollars.
- In each country, factors such as income growth, inflation, exchange rates, and population change, influence GNI per capita taken in to account for classifications.

- Every year world bank updates the classifications.
- These Classifications are-
Low income < 1,005 GNI/Capita (current US\$)
Lower-middle income = 1,006 - 3,955 GNI/Capita (current US\$)
Upper-middle income = 3,956 - 12,235 GNI/Capita (current US\$)
High-income > 12,235
- Currently India is in Lower-middle income category.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral and regional agreements involving India

Source- AIR

3. India contributes 1 million to UN's ambitious solar project

- India has contributed one million US dollars for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the imposing UN building at the world body's headquarters in New York.
- The contribution will help reduce carbon footprint and promote sustainable energy.

NOTE

India is the first responder to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for climate action.

Topic-GS- 2- Important institutions and agencies

Source- AIR

4. MHA signs MoU with ISRO to set up an Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response.

- Home Ministry and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have signed a MoU for setting up of a state-of-the-art Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) in Home Ministry.
- ISRO will render its technical expertise for setting up of proposed ICR-ER whereas the project will be executed under the overall supervision of MHA.
- The proposed Control Room is expected to be established in next one-and-a-half year.
- The ICR-ER will cater to the requirement of Disaster Management as well as Internal Security.

Topic-GS-1-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source- AIR

5. Successful Flight Test of Prahar

Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Balasore.

Related Information

Prahar

- 'Prahar' is a contemporary weapon system capable of carrying multiple types of warheads and neutralizing a wide variety of targets.
- It has been indigenously developed by DRDO.
- It is a solid-fuelled short-range missile fitted with the inertial navigation system.
- It is capable of filling the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system 'Pinaka' and medium-range ballistic missile 'Prithvi'.
- It can also engage multiple targets in different directions.
- The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance, and electromechanical actuation systems with the advanced onboard computer.
- It is a quick-reaction, all-weather, all-terrain, highly accurate battlefield support tactical weapon system.

Topic-GS-3-Science and technology

Source-PIB

6. Union Home Minister launches two portals to strengthen Women Safety.

- The portal "cybercrime.gov.in" will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.
- The National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO), which is accessible only to law enforcement agencies, will assist in effectively tracking and investigating cases of sexual offenses.

The two portals are:

a) The Cyber Crime Prevention Against Women and Children (CCPWC)

- CCPWC portal is convenient and user-friendly that will enable complainants in reporting cases without disclosing their identity.
- This will not only aid the victims/complainants but also help the civil society organizations and responsible citizens to anonymously report complaints pertaining to child pornography, child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.
- Complainants can also upload the objectionable content and URL to assist in the investigation by the State Police.
- The complaints registered through this portal will be handled by police authorities of respective State/UTs.
- There are other features such as a victim or complainant can track his/her report by opting for "report and track" option using his/her mobile number.

b) Portal for the National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO)

- It is a central database of "sexual offenders" in the country which will be maintained by the NCRB for regular monitoring and tracking by the State Police.
- The database is accessible only to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and monitoring purpose.
- The database will include offenders convicted under charges of rape, gang rape, POCSO and eve teasing.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

7. ILO: Strong wage policies are key to promote inclusive growth in India.

- India's economy in the past two decades has seen an annual average GDP rate of 7% – low pay and inequality persist according to the India Wage Report: Wage policies for decent work and inclusive growth, published by the International Labour Organization.

Key Highlights:

- Real average daily wages for legislators, senior officials and managers nearly doubled between

1993–94 and 2011–12, the fastest rate of growth across occupational categories.

- The report highlights that salaries in urban India rose steadily during the period of high economic growth (1993–94 to 2004–05) and this was especially so for those working in the professional and administrative categories.
- Also, women workers have a lower probability of getting social security benefits than their male counterparts as most of them are concentrated in low-skilled occupations.
- In low-skilled jobs, women receive only 69% of men's average daily wages
- Daily wages in urban areas (₹384) also remain more than twice as high as those in rural areas (₹175)
- The average wage of casual workers, who make up 62% of the earning population, was only ₹143 a day.

Related information

International Labour Organization

- ILO is a United Nations agency dealing with labor issues, particularly international labor standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all.
- Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Formed on 29th October 1919.
- The ILO has 187 member states: 186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO.
- In 1969, the organization received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions and agencies

Source- The Hindu

8. Scientist KN Vyas appointed Atomic Energy Commission Chief

- Renowned scientist Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas has been appointed the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
- Mr. Vyas has been appointed in place of Shekhar Basu.

Related Information

- The Atomic Energy Commission is the governing body of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India.

- The DAE is under the direct charge of the Prime Minister.
- It also gives financial assistance to autonomous national institutes doing research in the field and has various other organizations under it.

22.09.2018

1. UNDP report lauds India's strides in reducing poverty in the past decade

According to MPI 2018 released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, there are 271 million fewer poor people in India in this period.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2018 says:

- Despite the massive gains made in reducing multidimensional poverty, 364 million Indians continue to experience acute deprivations in health, nutrition, schooling, and sanitation.
- Just over one in four multidimensionally poor people in India are under ten years of age.
- Traditionally disadvantaged groups, in terms of castes, religions etc, continue to be the poorest though they have experienced the biggest decadal reduction in MPI.
- About 196 million MPI poor people in India, accounting for more than half of all multidimensionally poor in India, live in the four states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- While Delhi, Kerala, and Goa have the lowest incidence of multidimensional poverty.

Related Information

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was developed in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Programme.
- It uses different factors to determine poverty beyond income-based lists.

- It replaced the previous Human Poverty Index.
- The global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is an international measure of acute poverty covering over 100 developing countries.

The following ten indicators are used to calculate the MPI:

- **Education (each indicator is weighted equally at 1/6)**
 - Years of schooling: deprived if no household member has completed six years of schooling.
 - Child school attendance: deprived if any school-aged child is not attending school up to class 8.
- **Health (each indicator is weighted equally at 1/6)**
 - Child mortality: deprived if any child has died in the family in the past 5 years.
 - Nutrition: deprived if any adult or child, for whom there is nutritional information, is stunted.
- **Standard of Living (each indicator is weighted equally at 1/18)**
 - Electricity: deprived if the household has no electricity.
 - Sanitation: deprived if the household's sanitation facility is not improved, or it is improved but shared with other households.
 - Drinking water: deprived if the household does not have access to safe drinking water (according to MDG guidelines) or safe drinking water is more than a 30-minute walk from home roundtrip.
 - Floor: deprived if the household has a dirt, sand or dung floor.
 - Cooking fuel: deprived if the household cooks with dung, wood or charcoal.
 - Assets ownership: deprived if the household does not own more than one of-

- Radio, TV, telephone, bike, motorbike or refrigerator and does not own a car or truck.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health, education, etc.

Source- Indian express

2. India is in advanced negotiations with the US to acquire armed Predator-B or weaponised Sea Guardian drones.

Related Information

Predator-B or weaponised Sea Guardian drones.

- They are high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- They can fire 'Hellfire' missiles or 'smart' bombs at enemy targets before returning to their bases to re-arm for the next mission like manned fighter jets.
- Predator and Reaper armed drones were used against Taliban targets in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region.
- They are controlled through satellites and flown by ground-based "pilots and weapon operators" at the Creech Air Force Base in Nevada (US) over 7,500 miles away.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- Economic Times

3. India third worst hit in world by terror, after Iraq and Afghanistan: US data

- According to the data released by US Department of state, for the second year in a row, India is the third largest victim of terror attacks across the world after Iraq and Afghanistan.
- While CPI-Maoists, which carried out 53% of the total attacks in India, is the fourth deadliest terror group after Islamic State, Taliban, and Al-Shabaab.

According to the national consortium for the study of terrorism and responses to terrorism, contracted by the US Department of state:

- Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a 24% increase in terror attacks in 2017 and an 89% increase in the number of people killed in those attacks.

- Out of a total 860 terror attacks across India in 2017, 25% were reported from J&K alone.
- Terming Maoists as the fourth deadliest terror group in the world, the US study has stated that it was responsible for 53% of attacks in India in 2017.
- The frequency of terrorist violence by Maoist extremists in India declined between 2016 and 2017 with respect to the number of attacks (from 338 in 2016 to 295 in 2017); however, the number of people killed increased 16%, and the number of people injured increased 50%.
- While Maoists were involved in 295 total attacks in India, only global outfits ahead of them are Al-Shabaab with 353 attacks, Taliban with 703 attacks and Islamic State with 857 attacks.

NOTE-

- Till 2015, Pakistan was the third most affected country in the world.

Topic-GS-3-Terrorism

Source- Times of India

4. PM Modi will launch a series of developmental projects in Odisha

The developmental projects in Odisha include:

- **An airport at Jharsuguda-** This airport shall bring western Odisha on the aviation map of India.
- **A plaque marking the revival of Fertilizer Plant at Talcher-** This is the first plant in India which will have a coal gasification-based fertilizer unit and natural gas.
- **New Jharsuguda-Barapali-Sardega railway line.**

Topic-GS-Infrastructure

Source- AIR

5. PM to launch Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana at Ranchi

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) will be launched at Ranchi, Jharkhand, on September 23, 2018.

Related Information

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- It is an ambitious healthcare scheme.

- Under this scheme, over 10 crore families will be provided health insurance worth Rs 5 lakh each.

NOTE-

The Prime Minister will launch the scheme on September 23 but effectively it will become operational from September 25 on the birth anniversary of Jan Sangh co-founder Deendayal Upadhyay.

Topic-GS-2-Governments inventions in various sectors

Source- AIR

6. Inaugural of Pakyong Airport in Sikkim

Related Information

Pakyong Airport

- It is Sikkim's first-ever airport.
- It is perched between the Himalayan ranges at a height of 4,500 ft.
- The Pakyong airport will be the country's 100th functional airport.
- It which will bring the State of Sikkim on the country's aviation map.
- It is a greenfield airport, being the Northeast's first.
- It is skilfully engineered to include soil reinforcement and slope stabilisation techniques in the context of the altitude it has been built in.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source- AIR

7. US denounces China's "awful abuses" of Muslim Uighurs.

Beijing has rejected UN estimates that more than a million members of Muslim minorities are being held in internment camps in China's western Xinjiang region.

Related Information

Xinjiang province

- The largest of China's administrative regions, Xinjiang borders eight countries - Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India - and until recently its population was mostly Uighur.
- It has been under Chinese control since 1949 when the communist People's Republic of China was established.
- Some activists, including those who seek independence from China, refer to the region as East Turkestan.

Muslim Uighurs

- Uighurs are mostly Sunni Muslim.
- Islam is an important part of their life and identity.
- Their language is related to Turkish.
- They regard themselves as culturally and ethnically close to the Central Asian nation.
- Uighurs speak their own language — an Asian Turkic language similar to Uzbek.

Topic-GS-2-India and its relations with other countries

Source- Indian Express

8. ISRO setting up the launch pad for Gaganyaan mission.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is setting up a third launch pad at Sriharikota to undertake the Gaganyaan manned space flight programme.
- ISRO will use its GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, which can carry the heavier payload of the Gaganyaan, and this will take off from the new launch pad.
- In addition, ISRO is scouting for a location on the western sea coast near Gujarat to set up another launch pad for Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV).
- ISRO is developing the SSLV to offer affordable launch options for smaller satellites through Antrix, the space agency's commercial arm.
- ISRO currently piggybacks smaller satellites on the PSLV and GSLV along with bigger satellites.
- The SSLV is expected to reduce the launch time as well as cost less to launch small satellites.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- The Hindu

9. Satellite control set to give drones more sting

- India is set for a quantum jump in the way it undertakes drone operations by upgrading from existing ground control stations to satellite-control of military unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).
- This significant capability boost will come with the launch of GSAT-7A, an advanced military communications satellite built by ISRO.

- The satellite is specially geared for RPA (remotely-piloted aircraft) operations.

NOTE-

- The GSAT-7A, developed for IAF, will be the country's second dedicated military satellite after GSAT-7 or 'Rukmini' was launched for the Navy in 2013.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- Economic Times

24.09.2018

1. **Israel, India to commemorate Centenary of the Battle of Haifa.**
 - The Battle of Haifa is being commemorated in Israel, Delhi, and Jaipur.
 - The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the two brave Indian Cavalry Regiments, Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers, that helped liberate the city following a dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.

Related Information

The Battle of Haifa

- The Battle of Haifa was fought on 23 September 1918.
- During the Battle of Haifa, the Indian 15th (Imperial Service) Cavalry Brigade, 5th Cavalry Division and part of the Desert Mounted Corps attacked rearguard forces of the Ottoman Empire that resulted in the capture of the towns of Haifa and Acre.

Topic-GS-1-Indian history

Source- AIR

2. **India successfully test fires Prithvi Defence missile**
 - India successfully conducted a first interceptor missile test off the Odisha coast.
 - This made India achieve a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.
 - The interceptor was launched from Abdul Kalam Island of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).

Related information

Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV)

- This Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of the earth's atmosphere.
- In an automated operation, radar-based detection and tracking system detected and tracked the enemy's ballistic missile.
- Once the missile crossed the atmosphere, the Heat Shield ejected and the IR Seeker dome opened to look at the target location as designated by the mission computer.

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- AIR

3. **Government plans waterway freight corridor via Bangladesh to northeastern states**
 - India and Bangladesh share a 4,095-km border, of which 1,116 km is along rivers.
 - The proposed 900-km waterway would be used to transport freight from the northern and eastern states to the northeast.
 - It would start near Haldia in West Bengal, go to the Sundarbans, merge into the Padma river in Bangladesh and then join up with the Brahmaputra in Assam.

Related Information

Padma River

- The Padma is a major river in Bangladesh.
- It is the main tributary of the Ganges, flowing generally southeast for 120 kilometers (75 mi) to its confluence with the Meghna River near the Bay of Bengal.
- The city of Rajshahi is situated on the banks of the river.
- The name the Padma is given to the lower part of the course of the Ganges (Ganga) below the point of the off-take of the Bhagirathi River (India), another Ganges River tributary also known as the Hooghly River.

- The Padma enters Bangladesh from India near Nawabganj and meets the Jamuna near Aricha and retains its name, but finally meets with the Meghna near Chandpur and adopts the name "Meghna" before flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

Topic-GS-1-Indian physical geography

Source- Economic Times

4. **Government mulls ordinance to fast-track settlement of commercial disputes**
 - Seeking to improve India's ranking on the ease of doing business index, the government is mulling an ordinance which provides for time-bound settlement of commercial disputes and makes arbitrators accountable.

Key Features:

- The draft law provides for a time-bound settlement of disputes as well as accountability of the arbitrator.
- The amendments to the Arbitration Act will facilitate achieving the goal of improving institutional arbitration by establishing an independent body to lay down standards, make arbitration process more friendly, cost-effective and ensure timely disposal of arbitration cases.
- It provides for setting up of an independent body - Arbitration Council of India (ACI), which will frame arbitral institution and accredit arbitrators by laying down norms.
- The ACI will frame proper rules as to how institutions would be graded, norms to be followed, monitoring of quality and performance, and encourage training of arbitrators.
- The bill, which amends the 1996 Act, is part of the government's efforts to encourage institutional arbitration for the settlement of disputes and make India a center of robust Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source- Economic Times

5. **73rd session of the UN General Assembly**

Related Information

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN).
- The only one in which all member nations have equal representation, and the main deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN.
- Its powers are to:
 - Oversee the budget of the UN
 - Appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council
 - Appoint the Secretary-General of the United Nations
 - Receive reports from other parts of the UN
 - Make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions.
- Formed in 1945.
- All 193 members states of the United Nations are members of the General Assembly.
- Headquarters in New York.

Topic-GS-2-Important international institutions

Source- AIR

6. **President inaugurates centenary celebrations of Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha**

Related Information

Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha

- Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is an organization whose main goal is to improve Hindi literacy among the non-Hindi speaking people of South India.
- Headquarters in Chennai.
- Established in 1918.
- Founded by Mahatma Gandhi.

NOTE

- The organization was established by Annie Besant with support from Mahatma Gandhi, who became the founder president of the Sabha, who held the post till his death.
- In 1964, the institution was recognized by the Indian Government as one of the Institutes of National Importance.

Topic-GS-1-Indian national struggle

Source- Doordarshan

7. Miniature human oesophagus has grown in the lab

- In a first, scientists have successfully grown oesophageal organoids -- miniature, functional versions of the human food pipe -- using stem cells, paving the way for new ways to study and test drugs against gut disorders.
- The tissue was grown entirely from pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), which can form any tissue type in the body.

Related Information

Oesophagus

- The oesophagus is also known as the gullet or food pipe.
- It's part of the digestive system, which is sometimes called the gastro-intestinal tract (GI tract).
- It is a muscular tube that actively passes food from the mouth to the stomach.
- The organ can be affected by congenital diseases, such as oesophageal atresia -- a narrowing or malformation of the oesophagus caused by genetic mutations.

Stem cells

- Stem cells are a class of undifferentiated cells that are able to differentiate into specialized cell types.
- Commonly, stem cells come from two main sources:
 - Embryos formed during the blastocyst phase of embryological development (embryonic stem cells)
 - Adult tissue (adult stem cells)

Topic-GS-3-Science

Source- The Hindu

8. "Mushairas" to be organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs

- Ministry of Minority Affairs is organizing "Mushairas", based on the themes of teachings and principles of Mahatma Gandhi, across the country to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

- First such "Mushaira" will be held on 06th October, 2018 in New Delhi.
- Renowned Urdu poets will be performing various programmes based on the themes of Mahatma Gandhi's message of harmony, national integrity, democratic values, non-violence and global peace.

NOTE-

- Mushaira is a poetic symposium.
- It is an event where poets gather to perform their works.
- A mushaira is a beloved part of the culture of Pakistan, North India, and the Deccan, particularly among the Hyderabad Muslims, and it is greatly admired by participants as a forum for free self-expression.

Topic-GS-1-Indian Culture

Source-PIB

9. India, Oman may talk on Duqm port

Related Information

Duqm port

- Located on the south-eastern seaboard of Oman.
- Overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.
- The Duqm port is an important maritime landscape in West Asia.
- It has the potential to develop into one of the region's largest ports in the long run.
- The port will act as India's entry point for wider West Asia and Eastern Africa.

Oman

- Oman is strategically situated midway between India's western coast and Africa's eastern coast.
- It has been an old maritime power in the region whose reach stretched from modern-day Pakistan to the eastern part of Africa.
- It is India's oldest defense partner in West Asia and an ally in its anti-piracy campaign.
- It is the only country in West Asia that conducts exercises of all three forces -- army, air force, and navy -- with India.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral, regional and global groupings involving India

Source- Economic Times

10. **NASA balloon mission may help improve weather forecasting**

- The images of a thin group of seasonal electric blue clouds on the cusp of our atmosphere captured by a new NASA balloon mission may lead to improved weather forecasting.
- Data from these clouds, known as noctilucent clouds or polar mesospheric clouds (PMCs), may help scientists better understand turbulence in the atmosphere, as well as in oceans, lakes and other planetary atmospheres.
- The NASA long-duration balloon mission observed these clouds over the course of five days at their home in the mesosphere.

Related Information

- NASA's PMC Turbo mission launched a giant balloon on July 8 to study PMCs at a height of 50 miles above the surface.
- For five days, the balloon floated through the stratosphere from its launch at Esrange, Sweden, across the Arctic to Western Nunavut, Canada.
- During its flight, cameras on board the balloon captured high-resolution images.

Noctilucent clouds

Noctilucent clouds coalesce as ice crystals on tiny meteor remnants in the upper atmosphere. These clouds are affected by what is known as atmospheric gravity waves — caused by the convecting and uplifting of air masses, such as when the air is pushed up by mountain ranges.

25.09.2018

1. Ease of Living Index

- Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh have been awarded the three best performing states under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018, held in New Delhi.

Related Information

Ease of Living index

- Ease of Living Index is a transformative initiative to help the cities assess their liveability vis-à-vis national and global benchmarks.
- By the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The Ease of Living Index seeks to assist cities in undertaking a 360-degree assessment of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Ease of Living framework comprised four pillars namely Institutional, Social, Economic and Physical which are further broken down into 78 indicators across 15 categories.
- All cities were evaluated out of 100. The 'physical' pillar (infrastructure) was given the highest weightage of 45, while institutional (governance) and social were weighted 25 each. the economy was weighted 5.

Background

- It was decided in June 2017 to rank 116 cities (all smart cities and million plus cities) based on the liveability parameters.
- The implementation of the assessment commenced formally on 19 January 2018.
- The MoHUA released the first ever 'Ease of Living Index' covering 111 Indian cities on 13 August, 2018.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source-AIR

2. Supreme Court asks Parliament to frame laws barring candidates accused of crimes from contesting elections

Key ruling:

- Political parties have to display the criminal record of candidates who contest on their ticket on their official websites.
- Parties should also issue a declaration on the criminal antecedents of their candidates in a widely circulated publication.
- To facilitate this transparency by political parties, candidates should first give complete information about their criminal past or pending cases to political parties on whose ticket they intend to contest elections.

- This is to ensure that the ordinary voter can have an “informed choice” about who he has to vote for in a country “tired of money and muscle power,”.
- The CJI had pointed out that Parliament was obliged under Article 102 (1) (e) to make a law.

Article 102(1)(e)

- A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament
- If he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament Explanation.

For the purposes of this clause, a person shall not be deemed to hold an office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State by reason only that he is a Minister either for the Union or for such State.

Topic-GS-2-Separation of power

Source- The Hindu

3. Lawyers elected as lawmakers can practice in courts: SC

- The Supreme Court held that there is no bar on MPs and MLAs doubling up as lawyers.
- MPs and MLAs do not come under the definition of full-time paid employees of the state.
- The apex court upheld the earlier decision of the Bar Council of India, which had also declined to issue such a ban on legislators practicing as lawyers.

Related Information

Bar Council of India

- The Bar Council of India is a statutory body.
- To regulate the legal practice and legal education in India.
- Its members are elected from amongst the lawyers in India and as such represents the Indian bar.
- It prescribes standards of professional conduct, etiquettes and exercises disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.
- It also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as a qualification for students to

enroll themselves as advocates upon graduation.

- Formed in 1961.
- The Bar Council of India consists of members elected from each state bar council, and the Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India who are ex officio members.
- The members from the state bar councils are elected for a period of five years.

Topic-GS-2-Statutory Bodies

Source- The Hindu

4. Supreme Court constitutes the committee to look into jail reforms.

- The Supreme Court constituted a three-member committee headed by its former **judge Justice Amitava Roy** to look into the aspect of jail reforms across the country and suggest measures to deal with them.
- It will look into the issues of overcrowding in prisons.
- The committee will also look into the various issues concerning women prisoners.
- It had earlier said that a committee should be set up to look into the issue on a day-to-day basis and suggest measures to tackle the problems since it includes the issue of human rights of prisoners in jails.

Topic-GS-2-Functioning of judiciary

Source- The Hindu

5. mNeVA (NeVA-mobile app)

Related information

mNeVA (NeVA-mobile app)

- The mNeVA (NeVA-mobile app) is a device-neutral and user-friendly app.
- It has made information on the conduct of business in Legislatures accessible anytime, anywhere to everyone.
- It is a work-flow based app deployed in Cloud (Meghraj) which helps the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly and the members to carry out their duties in the House efficiently.
- NeVA has made live for Rajya Sabha in respect of Monsoon Session 2018 and information in respect of Lok Sabha is being updated.

- Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry, Manipur Assemblies have already started using the application.

e-Vidhan

- e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project to digitize and make the functioning of State Legislatures paperless.
- This is part of Digital India programme.
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, being the Nodal Ministry for this project.
- It desires to roll out e-Vidhan as NeVA covering all 40 Houses including two Houses of Parliament and thereby putting all them on a single platform and proving the theory of 'One Nation One Application'.
- It is a project for bringing Legislatures on the digital platform, covering all Houses.
- It is to be used by the Legislatures as well as all the Government Departments.
- It started in Himachal Pradesh with the central assistance.
- It made the Shimla Legislative Assembly the first Assembly in India to go paperless in 2014.

Topic-GS-2-Governance

Source-PIB

6. Swelling of Beas river

With water level in the Pong Dam rising, the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) dam authorities have decided to release 49,000 cusecs water from the dam in the Beas river.

Related Information

Beas River

- The Beas River is a river in north India.
- The river rises in the Himalayas in central Himachal Pradesh, India, and flows for some 470 kilometers to the Sutlej River in Punjab.

Pong Dam

- The Pong Dam, also known as the Beas Dam.
- It is an earth-fill embankment dam on the Beas River in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

- The purpose of the dam is water storage for irrigation and hydroelectric power generation.
- As the second phase of the Beas Project, construction on the dam began in 1961 and was completed in 1974.
- At the time of its completion, the Pong Dam was the tallest of its type in India.
- The lake created by the dam, Maharana Pratap Sagar, became a renowned bird sanctuary.

Topic-GS-1-Indian physical geography

Source-PIB

7. Antyodaya Divas

- 25th September is observed as Antyodaya Diwas every year to mark the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was one of the great thinker and philosopher of the nationalist movement of the country.

NOTE-

Antyodaya means uplifting the poorest of the poor.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source- AIR

8. Energy savings exceed 30 pc of the target under the PAT scheme

Related Information

Perform Achieve Trade (PAT) scheme

- The Perform Achieve Trade (PAT) is an innovative, market-based trading scheme announced by the Indian Government in 2008.
- It is under the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) in the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It aims to improve energy efficiency in industries by trading in energy efficiency certificates in energy-intensive sectors.
- The scheme is being designed and implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power of India.

- The PAT Scheme is being implemented in three phases- the first phase runs from 2012-2015 covering 478 facilities from eight energy-intensive sectors, namely aluminum, cement, chlor-alkali, fertilizer, iron and steel, pulp and paper, textiles and thermal power plants.
- The PAT scheme establishes plant-specific targets rather than a sectoral target.

National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)

- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change.
- It was taken by the Indian government to promote the market for energy efficiency by fostering innovative policies and effective market instruments.
- Its roots lie in the overall objective of The Energy Conservation Act of 2001.
- The mission document, which was approved in 2010.
- NMEEE includes four specific energy efficiency initiatives under its umbrella.
- Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT): Assigning energy reduction targets to large energy-intensive industries and distributing Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts) on the achievement of the targets. These ESCerts can then be traded.
- Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE): Promoting the adoption of energy efficient equipment and appliances through innovative business models.
- Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP): Increasing the confidence of financial institutions and investors to support energy efficiency initiatives.
- Framework for Energy Efficiency Economic Development (FEEED): Promoting energy efficiency initiatives by hedging against investment risks.

Topic-GS-2-Government interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

9. India falls below Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan in air safety audit

- India's air safety oversight score is lower than that of Myanmar, Bangladesh, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and even North Korea in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The only countries that rank below India are small and little known such as Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Samoa.
- In the aviation-safety audit conducted late last year by the United Nations' International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), India has slipped below its previous ranking of 66% to 57%.
- India is one of the 15 countries that are below the minimum target rates.

Related information

International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)

- The International Civil Aviation is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- It codifies the principles and techniques of international air navigation and fosters the planning and development of international air transport to ensure safe and orderly growth.
- Its headquarters is located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Formed on 4th April, 1947.
- ICAO defines the protocols for air accident investigation followed by transport safety authorities in countries signatory to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.

Topic-GS-2-Important international institutions

Source- Economic Times

10. India only SAARC country to have a quit-line number for tobacco users.

- India has become the first and only SAARC country to have a quit-line number on tobacco.
- The Union Health Ministry has already made 85% pictorial health warning mandatory on both sides of packets containing cigarettes, bidis, and chewing tobacco.

- The quit-line number will be printed on all tobacco products manufactured after September 1, 2018.
- For smoking and smokeless forms of tobacco products, the words 'Tobacco causes cancer' and 'Tobacco causes painful death' shall appear in white font on a red background and the words 'Quit today call — 1800-11-2356' shall appear in white font on a black background,

NOTE

- India is the fourth country in Asia after Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore to have this government helpline for those looking at quitting tobacco.
- At least 46 countries have quit-line numbers as part of health warning labels on tobacco product packaging.
- The current pictorial warnings on both sides of packages of cigarettes, bidis and all forms of chewing tobacco products in India came into effect from April 2016, following the direction of the Rajasthan High Court and subsequently the Supreme Court.
- They have been in effect for almost two years.
- India's current international ranking for package warnings is number three in the world.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health
Source- The Hindu

26.09.2018

1. Financial Inclusion Index

- Financial Inclusive Index would be released by the end of this year by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- It would rate states on their performance on last-mile banking services availability.
- It will be a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.
- The index will have three measurement dimensions:
 - (a) Access to financial services
 - (b) Usage of financial services
 - (c) Quality

- The single composite index gives a snapshot of level of financial inclusion that would guide the Macro Policy perspective.
- The various components of the index will also help to measure financial services for use of internal policy making.
- Financial Inclusion Index can be used directly as a composite measure in development indicators.

Topic-GS-3-Inclusive growth

Source-PIB

2. Jan Dhan Darshak

Related Information

Jan Dhan Darshak app

- "Jan Dhan Darshak" app is a banking services infrastructure locator.
- It aims to bring banking within reach of every citizen through over 500,000 "banking touch points".
- Comprising of bank branches, banking correspondents, ATMs, common service centers and post offices.
- The GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping of banking services will be a convenient method for any person to find the nearest banking touch point.
- Banking services available within five kilometers of every household.

NOTE-

- A geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present spatial or geographic data.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source-PIB

3. Hassle-free online loans for MSMEs valuing up to Rs 10 million

- The government launched a common online platform for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) credit.

Related Information

Web portal www.psbloansin59minutes.com

- A first in MSME banking credit space, www.psbloansin59minutes.com is one of its kind platform in MSME segment which integrates advanced fintech to ensure seamless loan approval and management.

- It will enable businesses to get loans up to Rs 10 million approved through a completely automated process within just 59 minutes, from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs):
 - SBI
 - Bank of Baroda
 - PNB
 - Vijaya
 - Indian Bank
- It is a strategic initiative of SIBDI led PSB consortium incubated under the aegis of **the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.**
- Only Platform in the market with a Banker Interface which covers the Branch Level integrations (with maker-checker-approver) in tune with current systems of PSBs.

Topic-GS-3-Inclusive Growth

Source-PIB

4. First assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Related Information

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), an Indian initiative, was launched jointly by Prime Minister of India and President of France on 30 November 2015 in Paris, France on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (CoP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The Alliance, recognizing that solar energy provides potential member solar resource-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- ISA is headquartered in India.
- Till date, out of 121 prospective member countries that lie either fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, 68 countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA.

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions

Source-PIB

5. 2nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional

Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organization consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.

- The Indian Ocean Rim Association was set up with the objective of strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean Region with 21 Member States and 7 Dialogue Partners.
- The organization was first established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Ebene, Mauritius.
- Established in March 1995.

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions

Source-PIB

6. 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018)

Related Information

Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018)

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy(MNRE) is organizing the 2nd Global RE-INVEST India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo from 3-5 October 2018 at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, National Capital Region of Delhi.
- The 2nd Global RE-INVEST will host the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries.
- The 2nd RE-INVEST aims at accelerating the worldwide effort to scale up renewable energy and connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders.

RE-INVEST

- **RE-INVEST** is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables.
- It showcases India's clean energy market and the Government's efforts to scale up capacity to meet the national energy demand in socially, economically and ecologically sustainable ways.

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions

Source-PIB

7. Union Science & Technology Minister inaugurates air pollution mitigation devices at ITO and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi.

Related Information

WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit)

- It is an air pollution control device.
- For traffic junctions at ITO intersection and Mukarba Chowk in Delhi.
- WAYU is developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as a part of Technology Development Project being funded by the Department of Science and Technology.
- It is a prototype device that has been indigenously developed has the capacity to purify the air in an area of the 500-meter square.
- The device works on two principles mainly Wind generation for dilution of air pollutants and Active Pollutants removal.
- The device has filters for Particulate Matter removal and activated carbon (charcoal) and UV lamps for poisonous gases removal such as VOCs and Carbon Monoxide.
- There are two UV lamps and half kg of activated carbon charcoal coated with special chemical Titanium Dioxide.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

8. Defense Acquisition Council approves procurement of one thousand engines for T-72 tanks

Related Information

T-72 tanks

- The T-72 is a family of Soviet main battle tanks that first entered production in 1971.
- The T-72A version introduced in 1979 is considered a second-generation main battle tank.
- It was widely exported and saw service in 40 countries and in numerous conflicts.

- The T-72B3 version introduced in 2010 is considered a third-generation main battle tank.

Defense Acquisition Council

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the Defence Minister was constituted In 2001 for overall guidance of the defence procurement planning process.
- Head of the Council is the Defence Minister.
- The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought and time frame prescribed by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.
- The composition of the DAC is as follows:
 - Minister of State for Defence
 - Chief of Army Staff
 - Chief of Naval Staff
 - Chief of Air Staff
 - Defence Secretary
 - Secretary Defence Research & Development
 - Secretary Defence Production
 - Chief of Integrated Staff Committees HQ IDS
 - Director General (Acquisition)
 - Chief of Integrated Defence

Topic-GS-2-Defence and Security

Source- AIR

9. India ranks 158th in 'human capital' score, behind Sudan

- The study, conducted by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the request of the World Bank, is the first of its kind to measure and compare the strength of countries' "human capital".
- The study underscores that when a country's human capital score increases, its economy grows.

Key study:

- India ranks 158th in the world for its investments in education and healthcare.

- The nation is placed behind Sudan (ranked 157th) and ahead of Namibia (ranked 159th) in the list. The U.S. is ranked 27th, while China is at 44th and Pakistan at 164th.
- South Asian countries ranking below India in this report include Pakistan (164), Bangladesh (161) and Afghanistan (188).
- Countries in the region that have fared better than India in terms of human capital include Sri Lanka (102), Nepal (156), Bhutan (133) and Maldives (116).
- The study places Finland at the top.

Topic-GS-2-Important agencies

Source- Economic Times

10. The Supreme Court upheld the Aadhaar scheme as constitutionally valid

Highlights of the court verdict:

- The Supreme Court upheld the validity of Aadhaar saying sufficient security measures are taken to protect data and it is difficult to launch surveillance on citizens on the basis of Aadhaar
- A five-judge bench led by CJI Dipak Misra asked the government to provide more security measures as well as reduce the period of storage of data.
- The SC asked the Centre to bring a robust law for data protection as soon as possible.
- The SC said Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory for openings of a bank account and for getting mobile connections.
- The SC said that Aadhaar must not be made compulsory for school admission and CBSE, NEET, UGC cannot make Aadhaar mandatory.
- Private companies can't ask for Aadhaar.
- The apex court struck down the provision in Aadhaar law allowing sharing of data on the ground of national security.
- It added that Aadhaar is to empower the marginalized sections of the society, and it gives them an identity.

Topic-GS-2-Issues and challenges relating to the federal structure

Source- AIR

11. Cabinet may take up Operation Green scheme

- The Cabinet is likely to consider a proposal to launch a new scheme 'Operation Green'.

Related Information

Operation Green

- The Operation Green or the TOP Scheme is a simple scheme, announced in this year's Budget, will be implemented on a pilot basis for two years after the Cabinet nod.
- It has a corpus of Rs 500 crore to aid farmers in times of erratic price fluctuation.
- TOP scheme will focus only on three produce tomatoes, onions, and potatoes.
- Three clusters for each produce have already been identified.
- The clusters will be linked directly to the markets.
- The state governments will be roped in.
- The subsidy will be given for setting up of the storage facility near the consumption centers.
- The Operation Greens aims to promote farmer producers organizations, agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.

Topic-GS-3-Food security

Source- Economic Times

27.09.2018

1. Adultery no longer a criminal offence as SC strikes down Section 497 of IPC

- The Apex court said that Adultery can be a civil wrong and a ground for divorce but it cannot be a criminal offence.
- SC said Section 497 offends sexual freedom of women.

NOTE

- Section 497 of the IPC, mandates that "Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery and shall be punished."

Topic-GS-2-Separation of power

Source- The Hindu

2. **Supreme Court refuses to refer to 7-judge bench its 2006 verdict on SC/ST job promotion.**
 - The Supreme Court paved the way for grant of quota for promotions in the government jobs to SCs and STs, holding that the states were not required to "collect quantifiable data" reflecting the backwardness among these communities.

Key ruling:

- The apex court clarified that there was no need to revisit its 12-year-old verdict in the M Nagaraj case.
- The bench said the conclusion arrived at in the Nagaraj case that the states have to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of SCs and STs was "contrary" to the nine-judge bench judgment in the Indra Sawhney verdict of 1992, popularly known as Mandal Commission case.
- It said the whole object of the reservation was to see that backward classes of citizens move forward so that they may "march hand in hand with other citizens of India on an equal basis".
- This will not be possible if only the creamy layer within that class, bag all the coveted jobs in the public sector and perpetuate themselves, leaving the rest of the class as backward as they always were.
- It is clear that when a court applies the creamy layer principle to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it does not in any manner tinker with the Presidential List under Articles 341 or 342 (dealing with SC and ST) of the Constitution of India.

NOTE

- M Nagaraj case said that the states were bound to provide quantifiable data on the backwardness of SC/ST, the facts about their inadequate representation in government jobs and the overall administrative efficiency, before providing them quota in promotions.

Topic-GS-2-Separation of power

Source- The Hindu

3. **Cabinet approves National Digital Communication Policy**

The new telecom policy has been formulated, in place of the existing National Telecom Policy-2012 and aims to facilitate India's effective participation in the global digital economy.

Related information

National Digital Communication Policy 2018

- It aims to provide universal broadband connectivity at 50 megabits per second (MBPS) to every citizen.
- It will also provide one Gbps connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2020 and 10 Gbps by 2022.
- This estimated speed is much faster than the present speed being provided to Gram Panchayats and will enable fast Internet surfing and download of data.
- The policy advocates establishment of National Digital Grid by creating a National Fibre Authority.
- It also aims at expanding IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.

NOTE

Internet of Things (IoT)

- The IoT is the network of physical devices, vehicles, home appliances, and other items embedded with electronics, software, sensors, actuators, and connectivity.
- This enables these things to connect, collect and exchange data, creating opportunities for more direct integration of the physical world into computer-based systems.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source- AIR

4. **PM Narendra Modi awarded prestigious UN Champions of Earth Award.**

- UN Environment has announced that Mr. Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have been awarded in the Policy Leadership category, for their efforts regarding their International Solar Alliance.

Related Information

United Nations Champions of Earth Award

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) established Champions of the Earth in 2005.
- It is an annual awards programme to recognize outstanding environmental leaders from the public and private sectors, and from civil society.
- This awards programme is a successor to UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour.

Topic-GS-2-Important institutions

Source- AIR

5. **Famous 'Indra Jatra' festival being celebrated in Kathmandu.**

Related Information

Indra Jatra

- The eight-day long annual festival is observed to worship Indra, the lord of rain and good harvest.
- It also marks the end of monsoon and beginning of harvest season and festivity.
- The chariot procession and mask dances are the main attraction of Indra Jatra.
- On the fourth day of the festival the chariot procession of living Goddess Kumari, Lord Ganesha and Lord Bhairav began from historic Basantapur Durbar Square.
- Nepal's living Goddess Trishna Shakya made her first public appearance after she was appointed in September last year.

Topic-GS-1-Culture

Source- AIR

6. **India, United States form alliance in public and private sectors to combat the menace of tuberculosis.**

- The formation of 'USAID-India End TB Alliance' was formally announced by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Related Information

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.
- Formed in November 3rd, 1961.
- Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Topic-GS-2-Important agencies

Source- AIR

7. **Cabinet clears proposal to convert GSTN into the government-owned company**

- It approved increasing the Government ownership in Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) and change in the existing structure with the transitional plan.
- There will be the acquisition of the entire 51 percent equity held by the Non-Government Institutions in GSTN equally by the Centre and the State Governments.

Current state:

- Currently, the Centre and states together hold 49 percent stake in the GST Network, the company that provides IT backbone to the new indirect tax regime.
- The remaining 51 percent is held by five private financial institutions.
- The restructured GSTN, with 100 percent government ownership shall have equity structure between the Centre 50 percent and the States 50 percent.
- To allow the change in the existing composition of the Board of GSTN, the government inducted three directors from the Centre and the States and three other independent directors will be nominated by the Board of Directors.

- Besides, there are one Chairman and the CEO. Thus, the total number of Directors is 11.

Related Information

GSTN

- Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN) is a one-stop solution for all indirect tax requirements.
- It is a Section 25, not for profit organization owned by the government and private players jointly.
- GSTN has been entrusted with the responsibility of building the Indirect Taxation platform for GST to help prepare, file, rectify returns and make payments of indirect tax liabilities.

Topic-GS-3-Indian Economy

Source- AIR

8. Successful Flight Test of Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile.

- Astra, the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM), was successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft, from Air Force Station, Kalaikunda.
- The missile successfully engaged a manoeuvring target with high precision meeting the mission objectives.
- In the series of trials held to date, Astra has been launched in the complete Su-30 flight envelope.

Related information

Astra

- Astra is the best in the class weapon system.
- Astra an all-weather beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile.
- Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- It is the first air-to-air missile developed by India.
- It features mid-course inertial guidance with terminal active radar homing.
- Astra is designed to be capable of engaging targets at varying range and altitudes allowing for engagement of both short-range targets at a distance of 20km (12 mi) & long-range targets up to a distance of 80km (50mi).

Topic-GS-3-Science and Technology

Source- AIR

9. BRO provides humanitarian assistance to tourists stranded in Leh and Lahaul valley due to heavy snowfall

- Kullu district and Lahaul-Spiti were worst affected. Also due to heavy snowfall on Rohtang Pass, Lahaul and Spiti Valley have been cut off, which affected a large number of tourist who has gone to Leh and Lahaul Valley in Himachal Pradesh.

Related Information

Rohtang Pass

- Rohtang Pass is a high mountain pass on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas around 51 km from Manali.
- It connects the Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh, India.
- The pass provides a natural divide between the Kullu Valley with a primarily Hindu culture (in the south), and the arid high-altitude Lahaul and Spiti valleys with a Buddhist culture (in the north).
- The pass lies on the watershed between the Chenab and Beas basins.
- On the southern side of this pass, the Beas River emerges from underground and flows southward and on its northern side, the Chandra River (flows from the eastern Himalayas), a source stream of the river Chenab, flows westward.

Border Road Organization (BRO)

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
- It is staffed by officers and troops drawn from the Indian Army's Corps of Engineers, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Military Police, and army personnel on extra-regimental employment.
- Formed in 7th May, 1960.
- Under the Ministry of Defence
- Headquarters in New Delhi.
- Currently, the organization maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

- The BRO operates and maintains over 32,885 kilometers of roads and about 12,200 meters of permanent bridges in the country.

NOTE-

- Presently, BRO is also involved in the construction of a tunnel at the Rohtang pass which is estimated to be ready by 2019.

Topic-GS-3-Various security forces

Source-PIB

10. **Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna**

Related Information

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.

- It is the newly launched scheme of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- The ESI Corporation has approved 'ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA' for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.
- This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to the Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement.
- The cash benefit given to the unemployed persons searching for new employment will be 25 percent of his average earning of 90 days.

Topic-GS-3-Inclusive Growth

Source-PIB

28.09.2018

1. **Supreme Court paves the way for women's entry into Sabarimala Temple.**

The Supreme Court paved the way for the entry of women of all ages into the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala in Kerala.

Key ruling:

- Banning the entry of women into the shrine is gender discrimination and the practice violates the rights of Hindu women.
- It said religion is a way of life basically to link life with divinity.
- Devotees of Lord Ayyappa do not constitute a separate denomination.
- The CJI said the practice of exclusion of women of 10-50 age group cannot be regarded as essential religious

practice and Kerala law denies rights to women on the ground of physiological reasons.

Topic-GS-1-Issues relating to women

Source- AIR

2. **Govt forms Lokpal search committee headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai**

- The government has set up an eight-member Lokpal Search Committee under the Chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.
- The panel will recommend the names for the Chairperson and Members of the Lokpal to the Lokpal Selection Committee.
- The process of Lokpal selection is going as per the guidelines laid down in the Lokpal Act.

Topic-GS-2-Separation of Power

Source- AIR

3. **Ayodhya land dispute case to be heard on 29 Oct**

- The Supreme Court refused to refer to a larger bench its 1994 judgment which held that a "mosque is not essential to the practice of Islam," saying the ruling was given in the limited context of land acquisition and has no bearing in the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute.
- The Supreme Court said the civil suit on Ayodhya land dispute will be heard by a newly constituted three-judge bench on 29th of October.
- The apex court declined to refer to a five-judge Constitution bench the issue of reconsideration of the observations in its 1994 judgment that a mosque was not integral to Islam that arose during the hearing of Ayodhya land dispute.

Topic-GS-2-Separation of Power

Source- AIR

4. **NIC to jointly form new data analytics center to work with govt depts**

Related information

Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics

- In a joint effort between the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), a new Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) will come up which will provide its services to different government departments.
- The center will work with different departments to analyze their data in the hopes of improving project performance.
- It is being set up with the sole vision of kick-starting and fast-tracking the adoption of advanced analytics and machine learning capabilities by making the Centre the locus of expertise and excellence in the field of Data Analytics.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

5. **Model Code will come into force on a premature dissolution of assembly: EC**

Related Information

Model Code of Conduct

- These are the guidelines issued by the Election Commission polling day, polling booths, election manifestos, processions, and general conduct.
- These set of norms has been evolved with the consensus of political parties who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code in its letter and spirit.
- The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately on the announcement of the election schedule by the commission for the need of ensuring free and fair elections.
- Much of it is designed to avert communal clashes and corrupt practices.

Topic-GS-2-Constitutional Bodies

Source- AIR

6. **Commerce ministry forms the high-level advisory group on new foreign trade policy**
- The Commerce Ministry has constituted a 12-member high-level advisory group which would suggest ways to promote the country's trade.

- It would look at areas including exchange rate management, the impact of trade wars and strategy to manage the consequences of unprecedented de-stabilizing conflict-oriented trade dynamics.
- The panel would also examine prevailing trade dynamics, and suggest the framework for India to engage in future international trade.
- The panel would be headed by Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) part-time member Surjit Bhalla.
- The panel would hold its first meeting in the first week of October and would submit a report to the Commerce Ministry.
- The five-year policy provides guidelines for enhancing exports with the overall objective of pushing economic growth and generating employment.
- In 2020, the Commerce Ministry will release the new policy for the next five years.
- Under the policy, the government announces steps for exporters. Currently, the government has two schemes --merchandise and services export from India scheme.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source- Economic Times

7. **ADB retains India growth forecast for FY18 at 7.3%**

The ADB kept its growth forecasts unchanged at 7.3% for 2018 and 7.6% for 2019 as the temporary effects of the demonetization of large bank notes and the introduction of GST abate as expected.

Related Information

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966.
- Headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- The company also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia.
- The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, formerly the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE) and non-regional developed countries.

- From 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 67 members, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

Topic-GS-2-Important international institutions

Source- Economic Times

8. **Petroleum Minister to launch SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas as an alternative, green transport fuel.**

Related information

Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT)

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will kick off an innovative initiative in New Delhi on 1st October, 2018, with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs, i.e. IOC, BPCL and HPCL).
- This significant move has the potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as to provide an additional revenue source to farmers.
- The initiative is aimed at providing a Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) as a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

Bio-Gas

- Bio-gas is produced naturally through a process of anaerobic decomposition from waste/biomass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc.
- After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%.

Topic-GS-2-Governments interventions in various sectors

Source-PIB

29.09.2018

1. Global Language Park (bhasha van in Hindi) in Pune

- In what is certainly the first such experiment in the country, and perhaps the world, the eminent linguist Ganesh Devy plans to set up a Global Language Park (bhasha *van* in Hindi) in Pune.
- It will be located on a one-acre plot on the premises of the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU).
- Conceptualised as part of the 84th PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) International Congress that is underway in the city, the park will have about 80 'language'.
- The idea is to physically represent 6,000 of the world's spoken tongues in one space.
- Each tree represents the languages and dialects derived from the family or parent tree.
- Set to open in January 2019, the park will have a tree-lined walkway.
- Each plant will be equipped with a 'bespoke audio tour' to aid visitors.
- Audio samples of songs, poems, folktales, sayings, and jokes will be drawn from different world languages.

Topic-GS-1-Indian culture

Source- The Hindu

2. NITI Aayog and United Nations in India sign Sustainable Development Framework for 2018-2022

Related Information

United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF)

- The UNSDF was framed following a highly participative process, in consultation with government entities, civil society representatives, academia, and the private sector.
- The UNSDF outlines the development cooperation strategy between the Government of India and the United Nations Country Team in India.
- It supports the achievement of India's key national development priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- The focus areas include poverty and urbanization; health, water, and sanitation; education; nutrition and food security; climate change, clean energy, and disaster resilience; skilling, entrepreneurship, and job creation; and gender equality and youth development.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source-PIB

3. Apex Court declines SIT probe in Bhima Koregaon case

- The Supreme Court refused to interfere with the arrest of five rights activists by the Maharashtra Police in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima violence case and also declined to appoint a SIT for a probe into their arrest.

Key ruling:

- The CJI said arrests were not because of dissent of activists but there was prima facie material to show their link with the banned CPI (Maoists) organization.
- The apex court said that the accused persons cannot choose which investigating agency should probe the case.
- It also said this it was not a case of arrest merely because of a difference in political views.
- The majority verdict said the house arrest of the accused shall remain in force for four weeks to enable them to seek appropriate legal remedy at an appropriate legal forum.

Topic-GS-2-Separation of power

Source- The Hindu

4. Centre to hike grant for SDRF

- The Centre has enhanced its contribution in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) from 75% to 90% with effect from April 1.
- Kerala, which has recently faced the worst floods, will be a major beneficiary of the Centre's decision. Henceforth all States will be required to contribute 10% to the SDRF.

Related information

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialized force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Formed in 2006.
- It is the "Apex Body for Disaster Management" in India is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- The Chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister.
- The responsibility for disaster management in India's federal system is that of the State Government.
- The 'nodal Ministry' in the central government for management of natural disasters is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)

- The SDRF has been constituted in each State in which the Centre, so far, had been contributing:
 - 75% for the general category states.
 - 90% for special category States of hilly regions every year.
- The SDRF is a resource available to the States to meet the expenses of relief operations of immediate nature, for a range of specified disasters.
- Based on the recommendations of successive Finance Commission, the central government approves the annual allocation to SDRF.
- On the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission, the government has significantly enhanced the allocation to SDRF by 82.30% for 2015-16 to 2019-20.

Topic-GS-2-Statutory Bodies

Source- The Hindu

5. Locate Public Toilets on Google Maps MoHUA partners with Google to launch #LooReview Campaign

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM – U), has partnered with Google to launch the Loo Review campaign.

- One of the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM - U) is to provide sanitation coverage through public toilet facilities across cities in India for achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status.

Related Information

Loo Review campaign

- It is to encourage all local guides in India to rate and review public toilets on Google Maps.
- This campaign is part of a feature which allows all citizens to locate public toilets in their cities on Google Maps, Search and the Assistant and also provide feedback on the same.
- 500+ cities in India with more than 30,000 toilets with the name of "SBM Toilet" are currently live on Google Maps.

Topic-GS-2-Issues relating to health

Source-PIB

6. Government launches Rail Heritage Digitisation Project of Indian Railways in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture

- The project is a landmark effort.
- First of its kind in this part of the globe.
- For showcasing country's Rail Heritage to National and International audience in an online story-telling platform.
- This project is the largest cultural heritage digitization project not only in India but possibly the Asia Pacific Region.

Topic-GS-3-Infrastructure

Source-PIB

7. NITI Aayog and Oracle sign a Statement of Intent to pilot drug supply-chain using the blockchain

- NITI Aayog signed an agreement with cloud services provider Oracle, hospital chain Apollo Hospitals, and pharmaceutical manufacturer Strides Pharma Sciences to curb the distribution of fake drugs using new technologies.

- Oracle's blockchain software permanently registers a drug's record in the manufacturer's drug supply chain (serial number, labeling, scanning), leaving no scope for record tampering

NOTE-

- The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the third largest in the world in volume, accounting for 10% of the world's production.
- A recent report by World Health Organisation estimates 20% of all drugs sold in India are fake.
- Also, as the largest producer of generic drugs in the world, India is reported to be the source of 35% of all counterfeit drugs sold worldwide.

About Blockchain technology in drug supply-chain

- Blockchain technology helps to permanently register a drug's record in the manufacturer's drug supply chain (serial number, labelling, scanning), leaving no scope for record tampering.
- At every point of hand change, it records the drug's movement – from manufacturer to logistics, to the stockist to the hospital, or pharmacy to the consumer.
- In case of a fake drug, the software will detect irregularity.
- Additionally, critical information such as chemical ingredients of the drug or maintenance of temperature control in case of life-saving drugs or vaccines can also be tracked.

Topic-GS-3-Awareness in the field of IT

Source- The Hindu

8. Bullet train: Japan lends ₹5,500 crore.

- Japan has granted a loan of ₹5,500 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project on Friday.
- The Embassy of Japan said that the amount was part of the tranche 1 of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project (MAHSR).

- The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the funding body in charge of the bullet train project.
- It simultaneously issued ₹1,600 crore for the metro rail system between Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V.
- The West Bengal project is part of the Kolkata East-West Metro Project.

Topic-GS-2-Bilateral relations

Source- The Hindu

9. 1st corn festival of the country

- In Madhya Pradesh, the first corn festival of the country is being held in Chhindwara.
- The festival is one of a kind international event.

NOTE

- Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest corn producing states in India, with Chhindwara being the highest corn producing district.

Topic-GS-3- Major cropping patterns.

Source - AIR



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