

### New Disengagement Agreement in Eastern Ladakh

- Recently, **China's Defence Ministry** announced that **Chinese and Indian troops** on the southern and northern shores of Pangong Tso began "synchronized and organized disengagement".



#### **What is the new disengagement plan in eastern Ladakh?**

- According to India and China's statement, troops from both sides have started disengaging from the Pangong Tso area in eastern Ladakh.
- Currently, the disengagement process seems restricted to the north and south banks of Pangong Tso.

#### **What does a new disengagement process entail?**

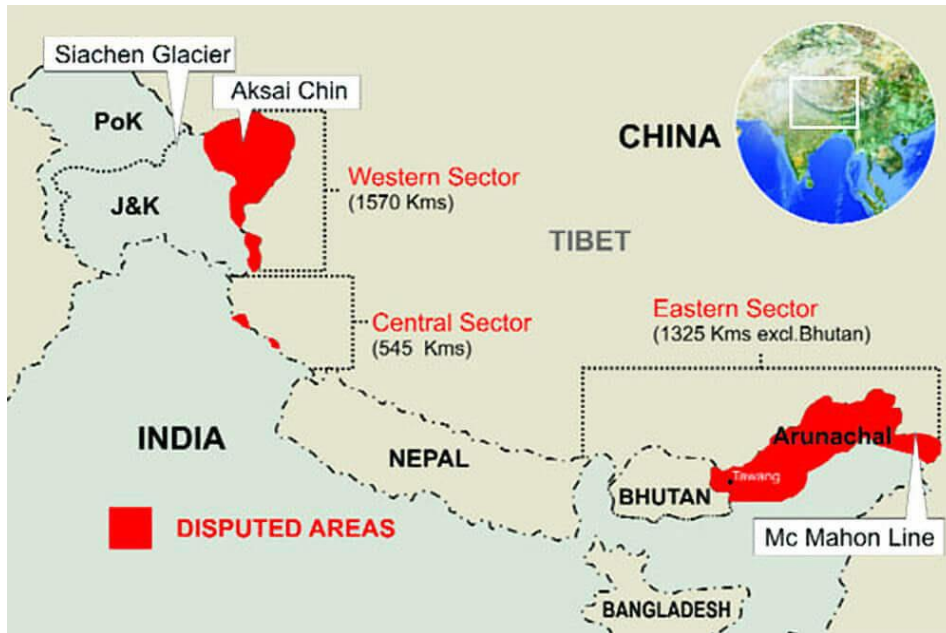
- The Union Defence Ministry of India has stated that both sides will remove the forward deployment in a phased, coordinated and verified manner.
- China will pull its troops on the north bank towards the east of Finger 8 and India will also position its forces at its permanent base at the Dhan Singh Thapa post near Finger 3.
- It also ensures that all the construction done by both sides on the lake's north and south banks since April 2020 will be removed.

#### **Significance**

- It is the first major breakthrough in talks to resolve the nine-month military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.
- Both sides have also agreed that the area between Finger 3 and Finger 8 will become a no-patrolling zone temporarily, till both sides reach an agreement.
- It is important to note that the process will send Indian and Chinese troops back to their traditional bases on the north bank.

#### **About Pangong Lake**

- It is an **endorheic lake (landlocked)** partly in India's Ladakh region and partly in Tibet.
- It is a brackish water lake.
- The Karakoram Mountain range, which crosses Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and India, ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso.
- Its southern bank too has high broken mountains sloping towards Spangur Lake in the South.



**Tactical significance of the lake:**

- It lies in the path of the Chushul approach, one of the main approaches that China can use for an offensive into Indian-held territory.



**Fingers in the lake**

- The barren mountain called Chang Chenmo has palm like formations called 'fingers'.
- India claims that the LAC is coterminous with Finger 8, but China claims it starts from Line 2.

Note: India physically controls area only up to Finger 4.

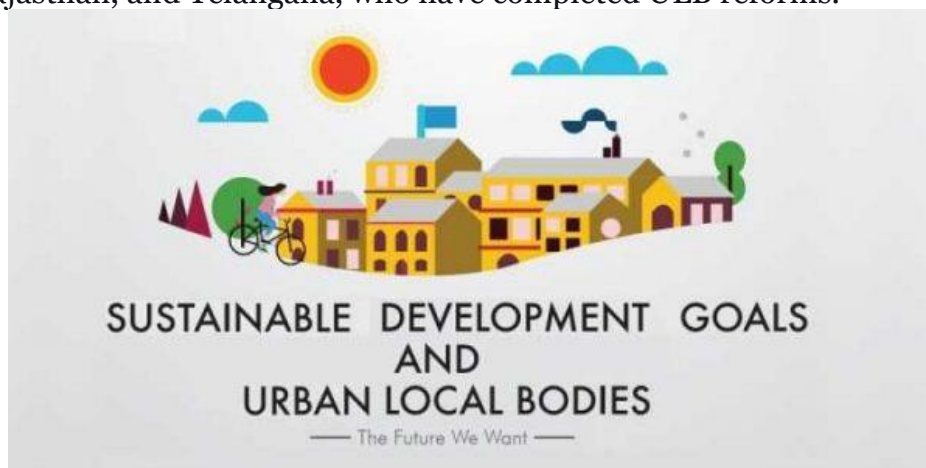
**Topic- GS Paper III–Defence**  
**Source-Indian Express**

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## Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms

### Why in the news?

- Recently, Goa has become the 6th State in the country to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- Goa has joined five other States: Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, and Telangana, who have completed ULB reforms.



### Benefits

- The State has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of 223 crore rupees through Open Market Borrowings.
- These five states have been granted total additional borrowing permission of ten thousand 435 crore rupees.
- Reforms in Urban Local Bodies and the urban utility reforms aim to strengthen Urban Local Bodies in the States and enable them to provide better public health and sanitation services to citizens.

### Objective of the reform

- **The set of reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure to achieve these objectives are:**
  - The State will notify floor rates of property tax in ULBs that are in consonance with the prevailing circle rates (i.e., guideline rates for property transactions) and floor rates of user charges regarding the provision of water supply, drainage and sewerage which reflect current costs/past inflation.
  - The State will put a system of periodic increase in floor rates of property tax/ user charges in line with price increases.

### Note:

- The four citizen-centric areas for reforms identified by the Department of Expenditure were Implementation of
  - a. One Nation One Ration Card System
  - b. Ease of doing business reform
  - c. Urban local body/utility reforms
  - d. Power sector reforms

### Topic- GS Paper II- Governance

### Source-PIB

## Koch Rajbangshis

### Why in the news?

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Cooch Behar in North Bengal to attract Koch Rajbangshi votes in upcoming elections.

### About Koch Rajbangshis

- The Rajbangshi or Koch-Rajbangshi is an ethnic group inhabiting parts of Assam, Meghalaya, northern West Bengal, Bihar, and the eastern parts of Nepal, Bhutan and northern Bangladesh.

### Historical Background

- They are a community that traces its roots to the Kamata kingdom, which comprises parts of Assam, West Bengal and adjoining territories.
- In the medieval period, the community was dominant and ruled their territory of Kamatapur, which comprised a large part of Bangladesh, West Bengal, Bihar and India's north-east.
- After Independence, the princely state of Cooch Behar became part of West Bengal.
- The community has a rich heritage, and main musical forms of Koch-Rajongshi culture are Kamatapuri Folk Song, Bhawaiyya, Chorchunni, Palatia, Lahankari, Tukkhya among many others.

### Topic- GS Paper I–Art and Culture

### Source-Indian Express

## National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)

### Why in the news?

- The government has recently approved Rs. 500 crores for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23).



### About National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)

- It is a **Central Sector component** under the existing vertical “Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)”
- The scheme also aims to create awareness about scientific beekeeping under:
  - Mini Mission-I: post-harvest management of beekeeping, beehive products, including collection, processing, storage, marketing, value addition, etc.
  - Mini Mission-II: Research & Technology generation in beekeeping; and

- Mini Mission-III: Rs 150.00 Crores has been allotted to NBHM for 2020-21.

### Objectives of National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)

The main objective of NBHM is to:

- Promote holistic growth of beekeeping industry for income & employment generation for farm and non-farm households.
- Enhance agriculture/ horticulture production; and
- Setting up of Integrated Beekeeping Development Centre (IBDC)s/CoE, honey testing labs, bee disease diagnostic labs, custom hiring centres

### Significance

- The mission aims for the overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping to achieve the goal of '**Sweet Revolution**'. The mission aims to make farmers aware of the distribution of specialized Beekeeping equipments for production of high-value products.

**Topic- GS Paper II- Government Scheme**

**Source-PIB**

### Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)

#### Why in the news?

- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has recently informed that the Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) has covered 74,880 ha area in five years.



#### Background

- The Prime Minister initiated a scheme for development of commercial organic farming in the region during 2015.
- It was later known as “Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region” (MOVCDNER).

#### About Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched as a sub-mission under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA).
- It is launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.

- The scheme aims to develop certified organic production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers.
- It also aims to support the development of entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification, to creating facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building initiative.
- The scheme aims to provide:
  - a. end to end support to the farmers from farm to fork including quality production,
  - b. effective post-harvest management,
  - c. value addition through processing and
  - d. direct market linkages to national and international markets
- The farmers achieve economies of scale, engaging bulk buyers and breaking off their dependencies on the traders/middlemen for market linkages through FPCs.

### **Topic- GS Paper II- Government Scheme**

**Source-PIB**

### **National Action Plan for Migrant Workers**

#### **Why in the news?**

- NITI Aayog has constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers.

#### **Member of the Subgroups for National Action Plan for Migrant Workers**

- The sub-group comprises the members from various Ministries of Govt. of India, subject experts, NGOs and civil society organisations, to prepare a tangible action plan to address issues related to migrant workers.

#### **Government initiative**

##### OSH Code

- To safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, **the Central Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.** This Act has now been subsumed in **the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020** and the Code has been notified on 29.09.2020, **which is commonly known as OSH Code.**
- The OSH code provides for decent working conditions, minimum wages, grievances redressal mechanisms, protection from abuse and exploitation, enhancement of the skills and social security to all category of organised and unorganised workers including Migrant workers.
- The relevant provisions of the Code apply to every establishment in which ten or more inter-state migrant workers are employed or were employed on any day of the preceding 12 months.

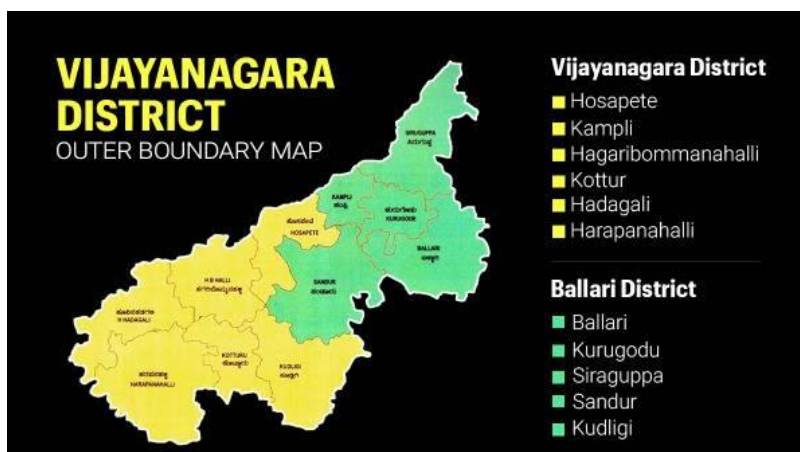
### **Topic- GS Paper II- Governance**

**Source-PIB**

### **Vijayanagara District**

#### **Why in the news?**

- The Karnataka government issued a notification demarcating boundary of the newly formed **Vijayanagara, the 31st district of Karnataka.**



### About Vijayanagara District

- It was named **after the Vijayanagar Empire's capital**; the new district was carved out from Ballari under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964.
- Vijayanagara, located in Hyderabad-Karnataka region, is famous for its UNESCO World Heritage sites – Hampi and Virupaksha Temple.

### Topic- GS Paper II- Governance

Source-PIB

### Dickinsonia: Fossil of Earth's Oldest Animal Found in Bhimbetka

#### Why in the news?

- Dickinsonia the **Earth's 'oldest animal'**, dating back **570 million years fossils** have been found in Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh).
- Researchers believe that this is the first-ever fossil in India of a Dickinsonia.



#### About Dickinsonia

- Dickinsonia is considered Earth's oldest animal, dating back 570 million years ago (late Ediacaran period).
- It is an extinct genus of a basal animal (animals with radial symmetry in their body plans).
- It is considered an integral links between the early, simple organisms and then an explosion of life in the Cambrian Period that was around 541 million years ago,
- Dickinsonia has been found in Australia, Russia, Ukraine, China.

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- Dickinson's discovery in India will pave the way for further assessing biogeographic provinces and plate tectonic reconstructions for late Ediacaran.

### **Geological Significance**

- It also confirms the assembly of Gondwanaland (ancient supercontinent) by 550 Ma.

### **About Bhimbetka**

- Bhimbetka Caves are situated in foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains (Near Bhopal) Madhya Pradesh.
- It is also a **UNESCO world heritage site**. The Bhimbetka rock shelters were found by **V S Wakankar**.
- According to UNESCO, the Bhimbetka rock art is believed to date from the Mesolithic period (around 10,000 years ago), through the Chalcolithic (Microlithic) and right into the historic, medieval and recent historic periods.
- **Cosmogenic nuclide dating** is being deployed to determine the time of the earliest human culture.

Note:

- Earlier, in 2019 fossils of Denisovans (an extinct species or subspecies of an archaic human) was found in a Siberian cave.

### **Topic- GS Paper I–History (art and Culture)**

**Source-Indian Express**

### **UAE gets category 1 status for investment**

#### **Why in the news?**

- Government has classified foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) from UAE as eligible for taking up **Category-I licence**.
- After Mauritius, the UAE is the second non-FATF (Financial Action Task Force) country to be given the exemption.
- As many as 72 of the 113 FPIs coming from the UAE are currently classified as **Category-II FPIs**.
- The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), a sovereign wealth fund, has been a significant investor into India.

#### **Benefits for Category-I licence**

- Category-I license implies lower compliance burden simplified know-your-customer norms and documentation requirements, and fewer investment restrictions.
- It also could boost investment from the region into India.

#### **Background**

- Earlier SEBI relaxed its guidelines for FPIs seeking a Category-I licence by allowing investors from non-FATF countries (specified by the government) to qualify for such registrations
- Nearly 80% of FPIs were put under Category 1 after reclassifying three categories into two in September 2019.

#### **About Foreign portfolio investment**

- It consists of securities and other financial assets passively held by foreign investors.
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of financial assets and is relatively liquid depending on the market's volatility.



- Financial professionals manage foreign Investors portfolio.
- **FPI is part of a country's capital account and shown on its balance of payments (BOP).**

**Topic- GS Paper III–Economics**

**Source-Economics Times**

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