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INSTITUTE



**इशूक**

Comprehensive **NEWS** Analysis

**09-09-2018**  
TO  
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**September**  
**Week 03**

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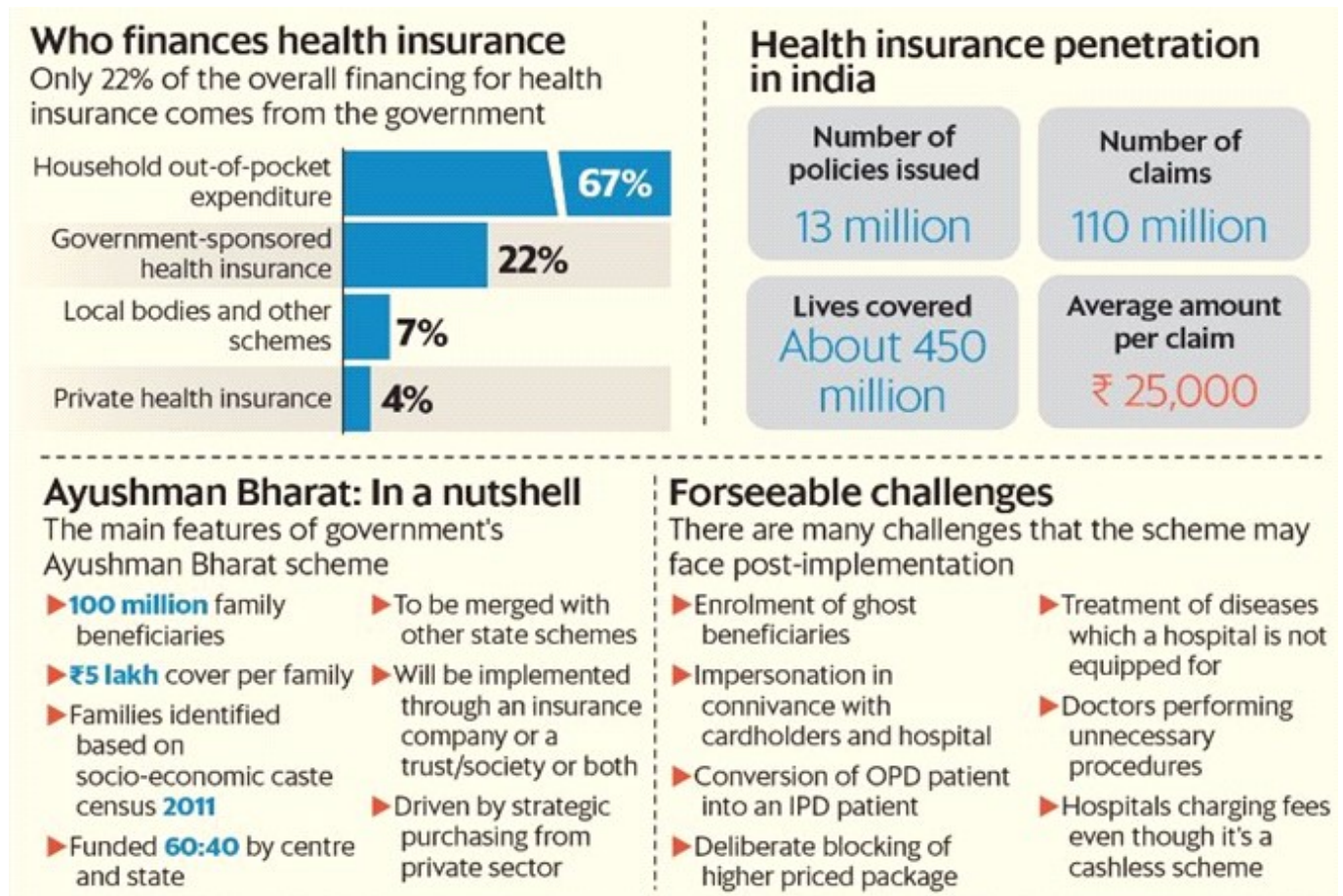


# Polity and Governance

## 1. Ayushman Bharat

### Context:

Not even 1% of the private hospitals expected to be empanelled to provide services under the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM) carry a quality tag. This will make it difficult for the centre's flagship scheme, billed as the world's largest health assurance programme, to provide quality care.



### What is Ayushman Bharat or National Health Protection Scheme?

- Ayushman Bharat which is popularly known as Modicare and is set to be launched under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana on 25 September, the birth anniversary of Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- The ambitious Ayushman Bharat or National Health Protection Scheme aims to cover over 10 crore vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) and provide health cover up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.
- The programme is being touted as the world's largest health protection scheme. The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country

and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.

### **Who are covered under Ayushman Bharat or NHPS?**

- The scheme will aim to target over 10 crore families based on SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census) database.
- To ensure that nobody from the vulnerable group is left out of the benefit cover, there will be no cap on family size and age in 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme.
- The insurance scheme will cover pre and post-hospitalization expenses.

### **How will the finances of Ayushman Bharat be covered?**

- The expenditure incurred in premium payment will be shared between Central and State Governments in a specified ratio.
- The funding for the scheme will be shared – 60:40 for all states and UTs with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and the three Himalayan states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature. The states are also free to continue with their own health programmes.
- So far, 14 states have finalised their memoranda of understanding with the Centre. Of these Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim and Chandigarh are the states that will use a trust model for the mission.
- In a trust model, bills are reimbursed directly by the government. Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have opted for mixed mode implementation. In an insurance model, the government pays a fixed premium to an insurance company, which pays the hospitals

### **Why private sector participation is needed?**

- The health protection mission aims to cover more than 100 million poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization in India where more than 70% of all health services are provided by the private sector.
- At least 6,000 private hospitals are likely to join the AB-NHPM but not all may not be accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), according to the Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body aimed at ensuring that standards are maintained in various sectors including health.

### **What is NABH accreditation?**

- NABH is a constituent board of QCI, set up to establish and operate accreditation programmes for healthcare organizations based upon international standards, through a process of self and external evaluation.

- Currently, it has around 540 NABH-accredited hospitals in India which is a very small number. All these hospitals may not join Ayushman Bharat.
- NABH accreditation indicates that a hospital has best-in-class services and gives hospitals additional benefit as these hospitals will get more in the base rate in the scheme as compared to the non-accredited ones.
- It is totally a commercial decision and a private hospitals' discretion to join or not to join the government scheme.

### **What are the benefits associated with NABH accreditation?**

- More and more NABH-accredited hospitals should join Ayushman Bharat because of the incentives. NABH-accredited hospitals will be paid 15% higher rate and entry level NABH hospitals will be paid 10% higher for the same package than non-accredited ones

### **What are the Measures should be taken to tackle the current situation?**

- Provide quality healthcare through private hospitals. Getting entry level accreditation from NABH is not very difficult and there should be around 2,000 entry-level NABH hospitals, which is low.
- It is the just the starting of the scheme. If not immediately, gradually the quality healthcare systems under Ayushman Bharat will fall in place.
- Empanel hospitals according to their specialty and super-specialty such as cardio, neuro and nephro. Even before empanelment, the government will do reality checks of the hospitals if they have the required equipment and tools to provide quality healthcare
- At least 29 states and Union territories have started working on implementation of the scheme, according to the Union health ministry. Pilot projects have started in 16 Union territories, while other states will launch pilot projects before the launch of the scheme this month.

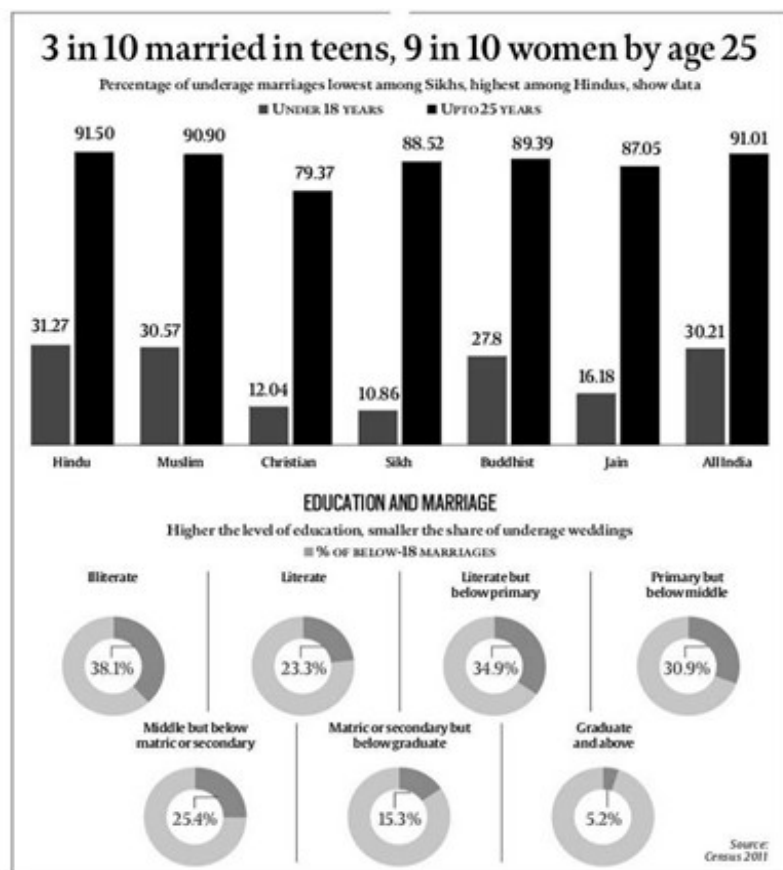
## **2. Bid to stop child marriages: NHRC report says RTE should be extended to children till 18 years**

### **Context:**

Even as a Bill to make child marriage void in India is pending before the cabinet, the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) core group on child marriage has, submitted its report to the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

### **National human rights committee (NHRC) recommendations:**

- The NHRC has based its recommendation on research that shows a strong correlation between a girl child's education level and age of marriage, with better education levels showing lesser likelihood of her being married early.



- A report released by the apex child rights body National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) shows that being out of school at 15 years is a strong predictor of early marriage. The finding is based on analysis of National Family Health Survey data (2015-16) for determining prevalence of child marriage among girls in the 15-19 years age group.

- The NHRC had recently formed a core group on child marriage. In their report, they have noted that a necessary step to prevent early marriage is to make education free and compulsory for all children up to the age of 18 years.

Accordingly, the Right to Education Act must be amended so that it is applicable up to class 14 instead of class 8 right now.

### **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) report:**

- There is a strong correlation between educational attainment of girls and early child marriage. There is also a strong association between parents' low aspirations for child's education and teenage marriage
- The report, 'India child marriage and teenage pregnancy', compiled by NCPCR and the NGO Young Lives India, shows that in almost all states, the completion rate of secondary schooling is significantly higher among unmarried girls in the 15-19 years age group.
- The report shows that in the 15-19 age groups of married girls, 30 per cent have never received any education, 21.9 per cent have got primary education, 10 per cent have secondary schooling while only 2.4 per cent have higher education.
- Among states, in Bihar, which has child marriage prevalence far above the national average, the completion rate of secondary education among girls who married before 18 years is 51 per cent, followed by Delhi and Rajasthan at 54 per cent and 57 per cent, respectively.
- The data also showed that 32 per cent of married girls aged 13 to 19 years had their first child when they were still in their teenage.

### **The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006:**

- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 doesn't invalidate child marriage but only gives the contracting parties the option of annulling



it within two years of becoming adult or through a guardian in case they are still minors.

- The WCD ministry's proposal, seeking to make child marriage 'void ab initio', is pending approval of the Union cabinet.

### Way forward:

Take necessary steps to prevent early marriages and make education free and compulsory for all children up to the age of 18 years. Accordingly, the Right to Education Act must be amended so that it is applicable up to class 14 instead of class 8 right now.

## 3. Delhi launches doorstep delivery of govt. services

### Context:

The chief minister of New Delhi inaugurated the Mobile Sahayak that brings government services to your doorstep. This system is the first of its kind in the world.



### Mobile Sahayak:

- The Mobile Sahayak program is designed by the government in partnership with VFS Global.
- From driving licences to marriage certificates, Delhiites can now apply for 40 government documents to be delivered at their homes for a fee of Rs. 50 per service.
- "Various certificates such as caste, new water connection, income, driving licence, ration card, domicile, marriage registration, duplicate RC and change of address in RC, will be covered under the scheme in the first phase,"

### How does it function?

- The applicant would have to call 1076 and fix an appointment with a mobile sahayak, who will go to their home and help with filling forms, payment of fees and collection of documents.

- The mobile sahayak would then submit the documents at the government office concerned, which would post the certificate or license once issued.
- Citizens can keep tabs on their application through the unique reference ID that the sahayak will share through a receipt via SMS or email
- In case you've submitted physical documents, then there will be a record of that on the receipt.
- Citizens can pay using cash or if the service is provided online, then online payments can be done.

### **Why New Delhi needs doorstep delivery of governance?**

- Going to government offices to avail services is a time consuming and a hectic process.
- Due to Delhi's bloating populations, lines have become longer.
- The official to citizen ratio has gotten more skewed and the most simple of tasks require multiple visits.

## **4. Is Punjab's proposed blasphemy law retrograde?**

### **Why in news:**

The Punjab Cabinet has decided to introduce in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) a new Section (295AA) which states, "Whoever causes injury, damage or sacrilege to Sri Guru Granth Sahib, Srimad Bhagwad Gita, Holy Quran and Holy Bible with the intention to hurt the religious feelings of the people, shall be punishable with imprisonment for life."

### **What had happened:**

Throughout India, Section 295A of the IPC provides for imprisonment up to three years for "deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings".

Now, damage to holy books can attract a mandatory life sentence in Punjab, while other insults can attract up to three years.

### **History of criminal blasphemy**

- The Punjab government has probably forgotten the misuse of similar blasphemy provisions in Pakistan, where similar amendments to Section 295 of the Pakistan Penal Code have ended in several tragedies.
- To criminalise blasphemy and sacrilege is to step on a slippery slope of justifying mob violence and private vengeance against the accused.
- The history of criminal blasphemy creeping into Indian law needs to be retold.
- Mahashay Rajpal, the publisher of a book, Rangila Rasul ( The Colourful Prophet ), was sought to be prosecuted under Section 153A, as the book allegedly caused disharmony between communities.

- The Indian Muslim community demanded a law against insult to religious feelings. The British government enacted Section 295(A) in 1927.

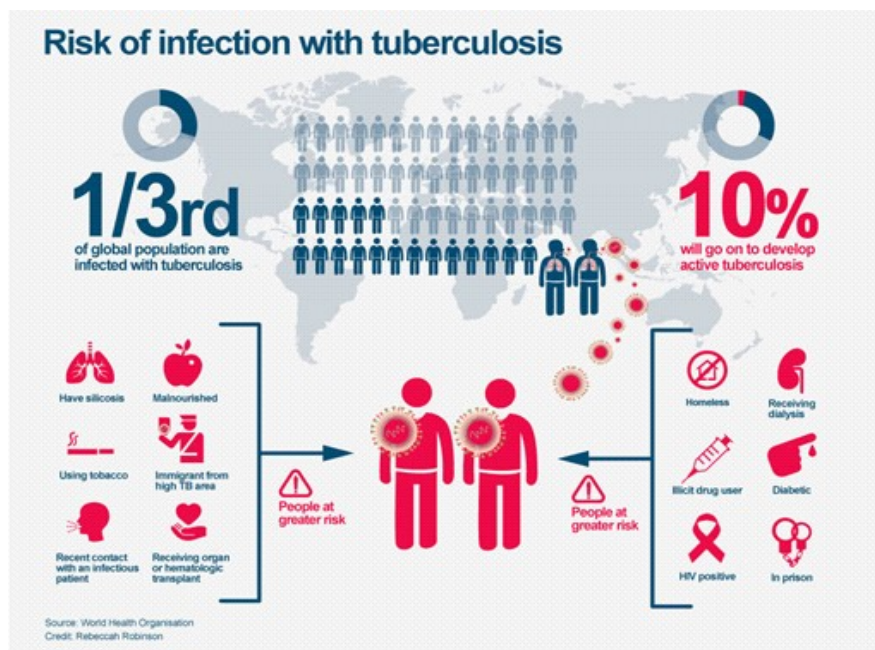
### A lesson from Pakistan

- Blasphemy laws in the subcontinent derive justification from the argument that people will be outraged by attacks on their religion and resort to street violence if the offender is not legally punished.
- History tells us that such laws and prosecutions rarely avert violence.
- On the other hand, they are more likely to attract violence and provide the perpetrator a justification for inflicting violence against those who are unfortunate enough to be accused of blasphemy.
- Indian Punjabi politicians would do well to reconsider their decision to follow their counterparts in Pakistani Punjab.

## 5. Ending TB

### Context:

The disease cannot be eliminated without universal access to affordable, quality diagnostics and drugs



### What had happened?

- After decades spent battling the scourge of tuberculosis (TB) in developing countries, 2018 might be the year that it is finally accorded the gravitas it deserves.
- On September 26, the UN General Assembly will, for the first time, address TB in a High-Level Meeting and likely release a Political Declaration, endorsed by

all member nations, to galvanise investment and action to meet the global target of eliminating TB worldwide by 2035.

- Elimination, which means reducing the number to one case per million people per year, will be impossible without universal, equitable access to affordable, quality TB diagnostics and treatment for anyone who needs it.
- To the disappointment of global civil society, issues around access to diagnostics and drugs have been considerably diluted in the most recent draft of the Political Declaration.

- A critical omission is that countries may avail of the various flexibilities under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; another is that countries may invoke the Doha Declaration to compulsorily license drugs for use in public health emergencies.
- Another is the option to de-link the pricing of new TB drugs from the costs incurred in their research and development.
- The latest draft is a watered-down version of the original that actively committed to upholding access to affordable generics for all.
- India has fought to retain its status as a maker and distributor of generic medicines, thereby protecting the right to health of people in developing countries.
- Indian patent law contains important provisions that help protect and promote public health goals — for example, by overcoming bids by big pharma to evergreen patents of old drugs, through compulsorily licensing for certain drugs, and by permitting pre- and post-grant opposition to patents to challenge unfair patenting practices by big pharma.

**Conclusion:**

TB is, by and large, easily diagnosable and curable. It is unacceptable that it nevertheless remains the leading causes of death from any single infectious agent worldwide.

Each day, thousands of people with TB die, often because of inequitable access to quality diagnosis and treatment.

## **6. Modernizing land records in India**

**Context:**

The Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP)—the erstwhile National Land Records Modernisation Programme—seeks to improve the quality of land records in the country, make them more accessible, and move towards government-guaranteed titles.

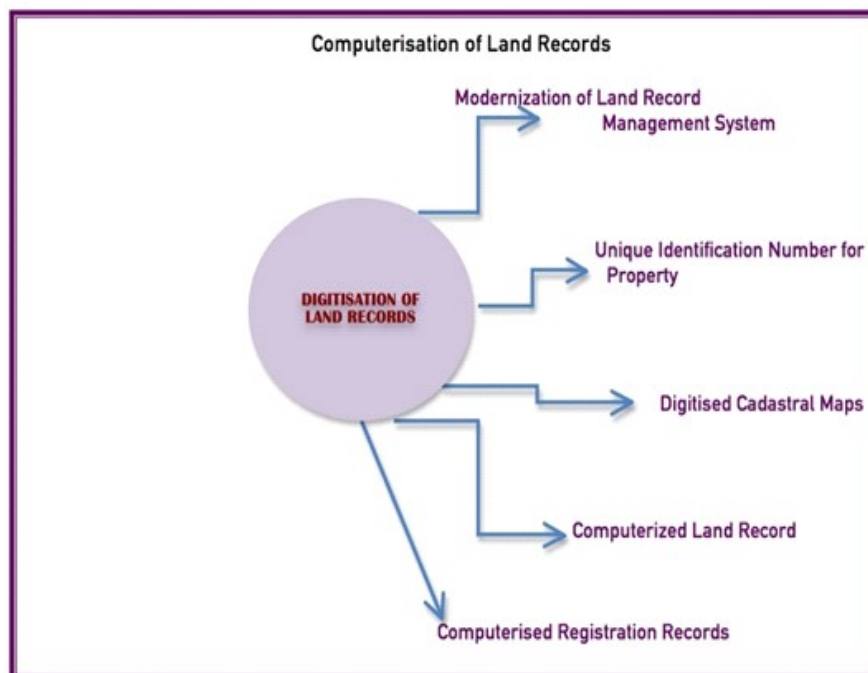
**Land Title document:**

- A land title is a document that helps determine land ownership.
- This will be achieved through complete computerization of the property registration process and digitization of all land records.
- The scheme completed a decade in operation in August this year.

**DILRMP is being implemented across all states:**

- The DILRMP is being implemented across all states with differential progress.
- As of August, while two states (Karnataka and Odisha) and three Union territories have completed 100% computerization of land records, four states are yet to start the process.





- The remaining states have computerized between 80-90% of the records.

- Nineteen states/ Union territories have started issuing digitally-signed record of rights (RoRs), a record that shows how rights on land are derived for the land owner, and records the property's transactions from time to time.

- These states have also started linking RoRs to

cadastral maps (a record of the area, ownership and value of land).

- Out of these, three states (Goa, Odisha and Tripura) have almost completed this process.

### **Records may not be up to date:**

- Progress on some other components of the scheme has been slow.
- As of August, computerization of land records has been completed in 87% of the villages. However, mutation (transfer of ownership) records have been computerized in only 50% of the villages.
- Further, only about 21% of the villages have started real time updating of RoR and maps.
- This suggests that, while records have been digitized, they may not be up to date.

### **Maps form an important component of land records:**

- Maps form an important component of land records as they provide data on property boundaries and details on the exact limits of ownership.
- However, only about 48% of the cadastral maps have been digitized so far.
- Spatial data has been verified in just 45% of the villages and survey and re-survey work, which helps update spatial records, has been carried out in only 9% of the villages.

### **Uncleared land titles:**

While the scheme so far has looked at the digitization of land records, it has not addressed issues around land ownership. It is well known that land records in India are unclear and do not guarantee ownership. Such

unclear land titles are there because of a variety of reasons, some of which are discussed below.

- 1) In India, we have a system of registered sale deeds and not land titles. The Transfer of Property Act, 1882, provides that the right to an immovable property (or land) can be transferred or sold only by a registered document.
  - These documents are registered under the Registration Act, 1908.
  - Therefore, the transaction gets registered, and not the land title.
  - This implies that even bona fide property transactions may not always guarantee ownership, as earlier transactions could be challenged.
- 2) Land ownership is established through multiple documents maintained by different departments, making it cumbersome to access them.
  - For example, sale deeds are stored in the registration department, maps are stored in the survey department, and property tax receipts are with the revenue department.
  - Further, these departments work in silos and do not update the data in a timely manner, which results in discrepancies.
  - One has to go back to several years of documentation to find any ownership claims on a piece of property, which causes delays.
- 3) The cost of registering property is high and, hence, people avoid registering transactions.
  - While registering a sale deed, the buyer has to pay a stamp duty along with the registration fee.
  - In India, stamp duty rates across states vary between 4% and 10%, compared to 1% and 4% in other countries.
  - Further, registration fee is an additional 0.5% to 2%, on an average.
- 4) Under the Registration Act, 1908, registration of property is not mandatory for transactions such as acquisition of land by the government, property leased for less than one year, and heir ship partitions.
  - Thus, several property divisions are not recorded and, hence, do not correctly reflect the ownership of the property.
  - This often leads to litigation related to rightful ownership.

### **Unclear land titles impede development**

- Unclear land titles impede development on several fronts. For example, in rural areas, small and marginal farmers, who may not hold formal land titles, are unable to access institutionalized credit.
- In urban areas, disputed land titles lead to lack of transparency in real estate transactions.

- Any infrastructure created on land that is not encumbrance-free can be potentially challenged in the future, making such investments risky.
- Further, under the Smart Cities and AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) missions, cities are trying to raise their own revenue through property taxes and land based financing.
- This necessitates the importance of providing a system of clear land titles.

### **Way forward:**

- To address issues with unclear land titles, a move towards conclusive titling has been proposed. In this system, the government provides guaranteed titles and compensation in case of any ownership disputes.
- However, adopting such a system in India will require several measures. Several changes in existing laws that govern registration and transfer of land will be required.
- A system of registered property titles will have to be developed as the primary evidence of ownership. All existing land records will have to be updated to ensure that they are free of any encumbrance.
- Information on land records, which is currently spread across multiple departments, will have to be consolidated.
- Although the DILRMP aims to move towards conclusive titling, it only addresses these issues partially.

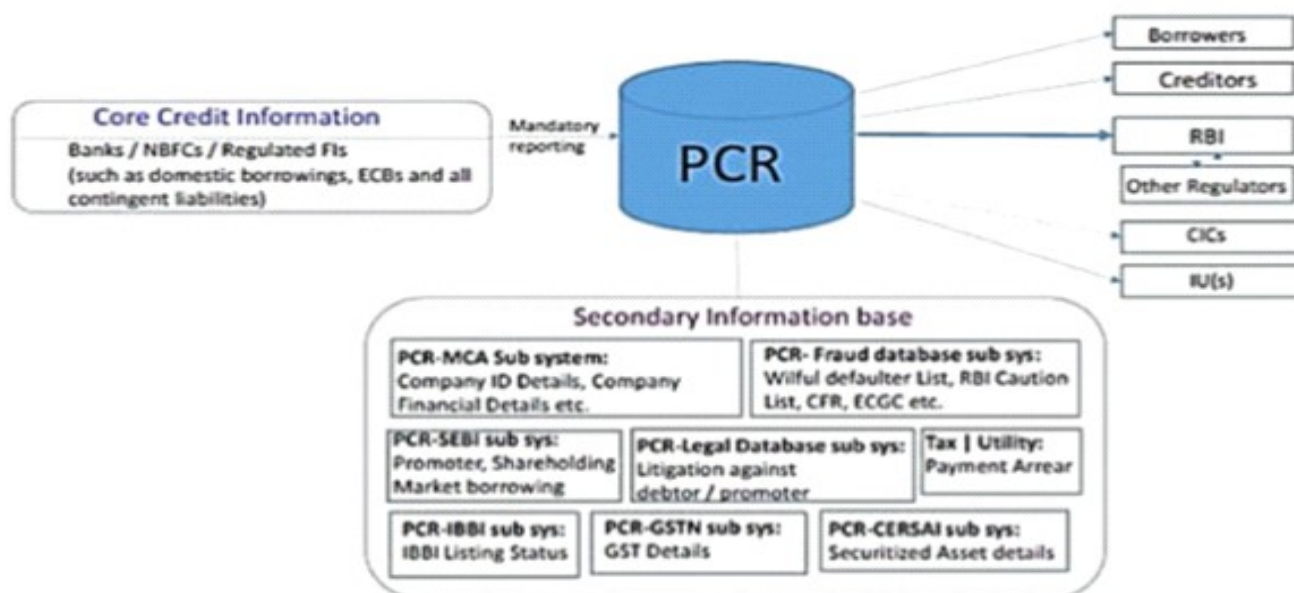
## **7. Why is a Public Credit Registry important?**

### **Context:**

Recently, RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya made a case for setting up a Public Credit Registry (PCR), incorporating unique identifiers: Aadhaar for individual borrowers and Corporate Identification Number for firms

### **What is PCR?**

- A public credit registry is an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers.
- A credit repository helps banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers.
- The move is based on the recommendations of a committee, headed by Y.M. Deosthalee.
- PCR will address issues such as information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers.
- It can also address the bad loan problem staring at banks, as corporate debtors will not be able to borrow across banks without disclosing existing debt.



- A PCR may also help raise India's rank in the global ease of doing business index.
- Setting up the PCR will help improve India's rankings in the World Bank's ease of doing business index.

### Panel's proposals

- The committee has suggested the registry should capture all loan information and borrowers be able to access their own history.
- Data is to be made available to stakeholders such as banks, on a need-to-know basis. Data privacy will be protected

### Why PCR is necessary

- Credit information is now available across multiple systems in bits and pieces and not in one window.
- Data on borrowings from banks, non-banking financial companies, corporate bonds or debentures from the market, external commercial borrowings (ECBs), foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs), masala bonds, and inter-corporate borrowings are not available in one data repository.
- PCR will help capture all relevant information about a borrower, across different borrowing products in one place.
- It can flag early warnings on asset quality by tracking performance on other credits.

### PCR in other countries

- PCR in other countries now include other transactional data such as payments to utilities like power and telecom for retail consumers and trade credit data for businesses.
- Regularity in making payments to utilities and trade creditors provides an indication of the credit quality of such customers.



## **Innovation in lending**

- Access to credit information, including debt details and repayment history would drive innovation in lending.
- For example, currently most banks focus on large companies for loans and consequently the micro, small and medium enterprises are left with limited options for borrowing.
- With satisfactory payment history and validated debt details made available, it will increase the credit availability to micro, small and medium enterprises along with deepening of the financial markets.
- This will support the policy of financial inclusion

## **Background**

- Currently, there are four credit bureaus in India — Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), Experian, Equifax and CRIF Highmark. These bureaus are regulated by the RBI under the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.
- They provide credit scores and allied reports and services. As of now, their analysis reports are used for issuing credit cards and for taking decisions mainly on retail loans.

## **8. 4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018)**

### **Context :**

4th World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA-2018) is being held at New Delhi. It is being organized by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).

The theme of WOSA 2018 is “CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN OUTCOME BASED ACCREDITATION” and the sub-themes are:

- Sub-Theme 1 – Achieving Excellence through Learning Outcomes.
- Sub-Theme 2 – Role of Industry in Technical Education.
- Sub-Theme 3 – Ranking and Rating of Higher Education Institutions – Do they have a Role in Quality Improvement?
- Sub-Theme 4 – Linking Government Funding with Quality.
- Sub-Theme 5 – Use of ICT in Accreditation in Large Jurisdictions.

### **Significance of the summit:**

- The Summit will facilitate exchange of information on various challenges being faced during the transition between input-output based accreditation to outcome based accreditation. The discussion and global participation in WOSA 2018 will bring about new ideas and help in establishing new trends of identifying opportunities and challenges in professional and technical education world-wide.

### **About World Summit on Accreditation:**

- World Summit on Accreditation (WOSA) is a biennial Summit organised by National Board of Accreditation (NBA), which provides platform to

stakeholders to share their knowledge and information on accreditation.

- NBA has already organised three Summits in 2012, 2014 and 2016 with the themes “Achieving Excellence through Accreditation”, “International Recognition of Education Qualifications” and “Quality Assurance through Outcome Based Accreditation” respectively.

### **About NBA:**

- The National Board of Accreditation (NBA) is an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Human Resource Development engaged in quality assurance of the programs offered by the professional and technical institutions in India through accreditation.
- NBA has been accorded Permanent Signatory Status of Washington Accord since June, 2014.
- It has adopted internationally implemented outcome based assessment and accreditation, to ensure that the graduates of the NBA accredited programs are globally competent and relevant.

## **9. Historians oppose Monuments Bill**

### **Context :**

Historians have vociferously opposed changes to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. If the Act comes into force, they say it could have disastrous consequences for historical monuments, they fear.

### **Concerns:**

- The Act proposes to allow the construction of Centre-approved public infrastructure within a 100 metre radius of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected monuments. This is worrying because this could open the way for denigration of ancient monuments in the name of development.
- A 2013 report by CAG said that about 1/3rd of the National Monuments of the country have been encroached upon and a majority of them were poorly guarded due to the lack of manpower.
- The monuments which are already deteriorating due to pollution, human interference and development activities around are further put under direct threat with the proposed changes.
- Public works by central government are executed more often than other small infrastructure projects which may even cause disturbance to tourism. The construction methods and tools may cause great loss to some architecturally and structurally weak monuments, viz. vibrations, particulate pollutants. It will give people the wrong message of govt. giving priority to development over environment, deterring the public from being conscious about the environment.

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

- **Construction in ‘prohibited areas’:** The Act defines a ‘prohibited area’ as an area of 100 meters around a protected monument or area. The central government can extend the prohibited area beyond 100 meters. The Act does not permit construction in such prohibited areas, except under certain conditions. The Act also prohibits construction in ‘prohibited areas’ even if it is for public purposes. The Bill amends this provision to permit construction of public works in ‘prohibited areas’ for public purposes.
- **Definition of ‘public works’:** The Bill introduces a definition for ‘public works’, which includes the construction of any infrastructure that is financed and carried out by the central government for public purposes. This infrastructure must be necessary for public safety and security and must be based on a specific instance of danger to public safety. Also, there should be no reasonable alternative to carrying out construction in the prohibited area.
- **Procedure for seeking permission for public works:** As per the Bill, the relevant central government department, that seeks to carry out construction for public purposes in a prohibited area, should make an application to the competent authority. If there is any question related to whether a construction project qualifies as ‘public works’, it will be referred to the National Monuments Authority. This Authority, will make its recommendations, with written reasons, to the central government. The decision of the central government will be final.
- **Impact assessment of proposed public works:** The Bill empowers the National Monuments Authority to consider an impact assessment of the proposed public works in a prohibited area, including its (i) archaeological impact; (ii) visual impact; and (iii) heritage impact. The Authority will make a recommendation, for construction of public works to the central government, only if it is satisfied that there is no reasonable possibility of moving the construction outside the prohibited area.

## **10. Article 161 of the Constitution**


### **Context:**

After failing to get the seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case released by exercising its statutory power to remit life sentences, the government in Tamil Nadu has taken recourse to a possible constitutional remedy. It has decided to invoke the Governor’s clemency power under Article 161 of the Constitution.

- In 2014, the Tamil Nadu government tried to invoke its remission powers under Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to release the convicts. The Centre opposed the move, arguing that since the

## Raj Bhavan to take call

T.N. govt. has invoked Article 161, which grants clemency power to the Governor, to recommend the release of seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. What are the options before Banwarilal Purohit?



- 1** Advice of Council of Ministers is binding on the Governor; so he may accept it immediately
- 2** No time limit is prescribed in the Constitution, and the Governor can take his time
- 3** The Governor can seek Centre's opinion in the matter
- 4** The Governor can seek reconsideration of the decision

### POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR REMISSION

- Change in circumstances, as the convicts have completed 27 years in prison
- Earlier rejection of mercy petitions by Governor/President was made while some of them were death row convicts; as they are all life convicts now, there is no bar on granting remission
- Sovereign power has not been exercised so far in respect of three convicts originally sentenced to life



**Ray of hope:** Perarivalan's mother Arputhammal thanking CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

- Supreme Court judgments have ruled that rejection of clemency once does not exhaust the power, and it can be invoked again

case had been prosecuted by the Central Bureau of Investigation, the state first needed to take the Centre's "concurrence" as required by Section 435 of the code.

- The dispute went to the Supreme Court, which decided in the Centre's favour in 2015, ruling that the word "consultation" in Section 435 in spirit meant "concurrence". In August this year, the Centre denied concurrence to Tamil Nadu on the grounds that releasing the people convicted of assassinating a former prime minister would have "international ramifications" for India.

### What should the governor do now?

- Tamil Nadu Governor will now have to take a call on the advice of the State's Council of Ministers and decide whether he is bound by it. He can either reject the proposal or seek its reconsideration. In either case, he will be mindful of the fact that his decision will be subject to judicial review.

### Is the governor bound by the Cabinet's advice?

- It is settled in law that except in matters where governor has discretion or enjoys independent powers, they are bound by the Cabinet's decision. Governor does not have the option of returning a decision for reconsideration either since the Indian Constitution provides that recourse only for the President. However, governor's decision, even if made on the aid and advice of the Cabinet, is subject to judicial review. Further, Supreme Court rulings on how governor should make decisions under Article 161 add to the complexity of the present case.
- In two separate judgements, the apex court has reiterated that governor's power to pardon cannot be used mechanically. In *Epuru Sudhakar*, which involved a Congress leader in Andhra Pradesh, the



court ruled that political considerations cannot be the basis for granting pardon, and set aside the governor's clemency order.

### **Options before the governor:**

- One, he can sit on the cabinet recommendation endlessly, as Article 161 of the Constitution does not prescribe any time limit for him to take a decision on the cabinet resolution.
- Two, he can return the resolution to the cabinet for clarification or reconsideration.
- Third, he can reject the resolution prompting the stake-holders to take the issue to courts, where it will be a time-consuming process.

### **Is concurrence of the Centre necessary?**

- Since state's executive power extends to all laws on the concurrent list, including the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, governor has the power to remit sentences handed down under such laws. In the particular matter of Rajiv Gandhi's assassins, though, the point of concurrence was insisted upon as the case had been investigated by a central agency.
- But given that the exercise of governor's power under Article 161 is constitutional, it does not require the Centre's concurrence. The aid and advice of the state Cabinet is enough.

### **Why Centre's intervention is necessary?**

- There is a possibility that the Centre will challenge the governor's order if he accepts the state Cabinet's advice, not least because it will cause several legal and diplomatic complications. Since three of the convicts are Sri Lankan nationals, what will be their legal status after they are released? Will the Indian government be willing to let foreign nationals convicted of assassinating a former prime minister live in the country? Will it deport them to Sri Lanka, where they are bound to be arrested again? If they propose to move to another country, can India be expected to facilitate such a move?

### **Way ahead:**

- An omnibus order of release clearly will not address the particularities in each case, or evaluate the gravity of their role in the crime and the effect on society of releasing them.

### **DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARDONING POWERS OF PRESIDENT AND GOVERNOR:**

- The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72 is wider than the pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161. The power differs in the following two ways:
- The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.

- The President can grant pardon in all cases where the sentence given is sentence of death but pardoning power of Governor does not extend to death sentence cases.

### **Significance of pardoning powers:**

- The pardoning power of Executive is very significant as it corrects the errors of judiciary. It eliminates the effect of conviction without addressing the defendant's guilt or innocence.
- Pardon may substantially help in saving an innocent person from being punished due to miscarriage of justice or in cases of doubtful conviction.
- The object of pardoning power is to correct possible judicial errors, for no human system of judicial administration can be free from imperfections.

## **11. Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha**

### **Context:**

Senior BJP leader L K Advani has been renominated as Chairman of Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

### **About Ethics Committee:**

- The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha was constituted on 16 May 2000 as an adhoc committee. However, in August 2015 it was given permanent Standing Committee status.

### **Functions of the Committee:**

- The Ethics Committee examines every complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member referred to it.
- It is also free to take up suo motu investigation into matters relating to ethics, including matters relating to unethical conduct by a member wherever felt necessary and make such recommendations as it may deem fit.

## **12. Fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs**


### **Context:**

The government has prohibited the manufacture, sale or distribution of 328 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs for human use with immediate effect.

- The health ministry's ban on FDCs included painkillers, anti-diabetic, respiratory and gastro-intestinal medicines, covering 6,000 brands.

### **What necessitated this?**

- The expert panel probing the efficacy of 349 banned FDCs, after considering these drugs "irrational", cited safety issues and lack of therapeutic justification, and recommended continuing the ban. It

<b>Combo Curbs</b> 	
■ Company ■ Brand ■ Status	
■ Revenue (Aug 2017 to July 2018)	
MacLeods Pharma [Panderm Plus]	₹184 cr <b>BANNED</b>
Piramal Healthcare [Saridon]	₹57 cr <b>BANNED</b>
Micro Labs [Tripride]	₹53 cr <b>RESTRICTED</b>
Abbott India [Tribet]	₹48 cr <b>RESTRICTED</b>
Lupin [Gluconorm-PG]	₹46 cr <b>RESTRICTED</b>
Alkem Labs [Taxim AZ]	₹31 cr <b>BANNED</b>
Source(s): AIOCD PharmaTrac	

also found that many FDCs were formulated without due diligence, with dosing mismatches that could result in toxicity.

### What are FDCs?

- An FDC is a cocktail of two or more active drug ingredients in a fixed ratio of doses. According to US healthcare provider IMS Health, almost half the drugs sold in India in 2014 were FDC, making it a world leader in combination drugs.

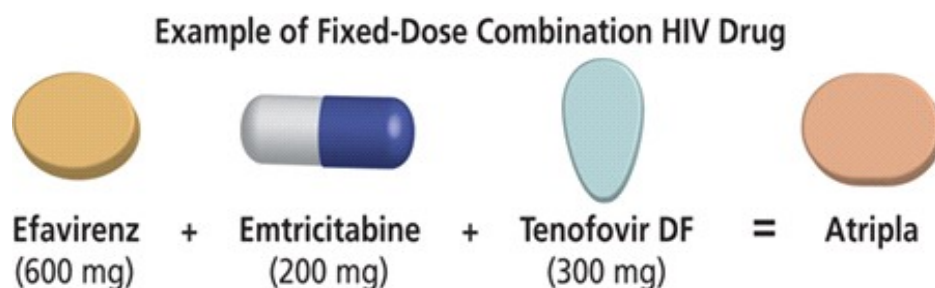
### Why are they popular in India?

- FDCs' popularity in India is due to advantages such as increased efficacy, better compliance, reduced

cost and simpler logistics of distribution. FDCs have shown to be particularly useful in the treatment of infectious diseases like HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, where giving multiple antimicrobial agents is the norm. FDCs are also useful for chronic conditions especially, when multiple disorders co-exist.

### Is there a flipside to FDCs?

- Given that there is not much data available on drug-drug interaction and side-effects in FDC, India's system for collecting data for problematic drug reactions is weak. When multiple drugs from the same therapeutic group, like antibiotics, are clubbed together, it may



lead to resistance. A lot of FDCs sold in India are unapproved, given the lack of coordination between state and central regulators. A

study published in the journal of Public Library of Science

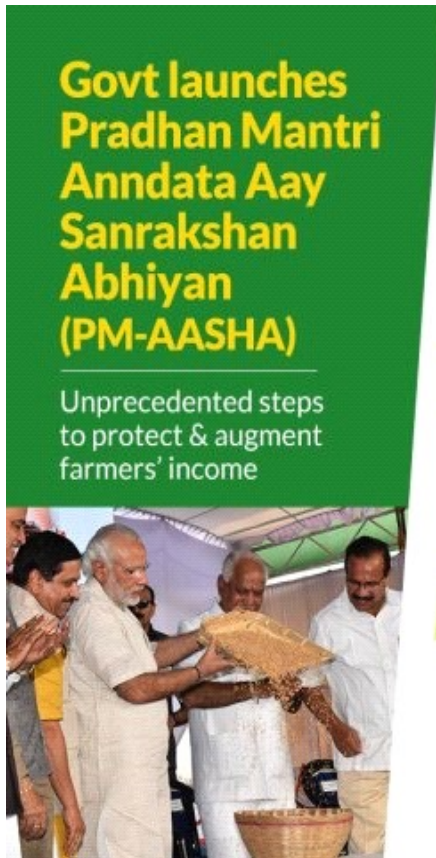
(PLOS) in May found that over 70% of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) combinations, which are used as painkillers, were being marketed in India without central government approval.



### 13. “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan” (PM-AASHA)

#### Context:

Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government and in keeping with its commitment and dedication for the Annadata, the Union Cabinet has approved a new Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan’ (PM-AASHA). The Scheme is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.



#### Price Support Scheme (PSS):

Physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra to be done by Central Nodal Agencies along with state govts. Central Govt to bear procurement expenditure & losses due to procurement up to 25% of production.

#### Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):

Will cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified. Farmers will get direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling price.

#### Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PDPS):

Participation of private sector in procurement operation to be piloted. For oilseeds, states have the option to roll out the scheme on pilot basis in selected district/ APMC(s) involving private stockist.

#### The umbrella scheme ‘PM-AASHA’ comprises three sub-schemes:

- Price Support Scheme (PSS).
- Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).
- Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS).

#### Price Support Scheme (PSS):

• Under the scheme, the physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies with the proactive role of the state governments.

- Further, in addition to

NAFED, the Food Cooperation of India (FCI) will take up PSS operations in states and districts.

- The procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by the Union Government as per norms.

#### Price Deficiency Payment Scheme this scheme (PDPS):

- Under the scheme, it is proposed to cover all oilseeds for which minimum support price (MSP) is notified.
- In this, direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process. All payments will be done directly into the registered bank account of the farmer.
- This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops as farmers are paid the difference between the MSP price and sale or



modal price on disposal in the notified market. The support of the central government for PDPS will be given as per norms.

### **Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS):**

- For oilseeds, the states will have the option to roll out Private Procurement Stockist Scheme (PPSS) on pilot basis in selected districts and Agricultural Produce Market Committee's (APMC) of district involving the participation of private stockiest.
- The pilot district and selected APMC(s) will cover one or more crop of oilseeds for which MSP is notified.
- Since this is similar to the PSS scheme, as it involves physical procurement of the notified commodity, the scheme shall substitute PSS/PDPS in the pilot districts.
- The selected private agency shall procure the commodity at MSP in the notified markets during the notified period from the registered farmers in accordance with the PPSS Guidelines, whenever the prices in the market fall below the notified MSP and whenever authorised by the state or UT government to enter the market. The maximum service charges up to 15% of the notified MSP will be payable.

### **Background:**

- Increasing MSP is not adequate and it is more important that farmers should get the full benefit of the announced MSP. For the same, it is essential that if the price of the agriculture produce market is less than MSP, then in that case state governments and the central government should purchase either at MSP or work in a manner to provide MSP for the farmers through some other mechanism.

Location	Contact Number	Batch Start Date
Ashok Nagar	+91 991 244 1138	July 09 Monday
Madhapur	+91 990 856 4438	June 09 Saturday
New Delhi	+91 880 028 3132	July 02 Monday
Visakhapatnam	+91 998 513 6789	June 25 Monday
Guntur	+91 996 335 6789	July 02 Monday

**ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR NEW BATCHES**

# International Relations

## 14. UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF)

### Context:

Shri Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals.

### About UNIATF:

- A July 2013 resolution at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) formally established the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs by expanding the mandate of the existing UN Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control.
- The Task Force is convened and led by WHO, and reports to ECOSOC through the UN Secretary General.

### Functions:

- UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of NCDs coordinates activities of relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialised agencies and other intergovernmental organisations, to support the realisation of the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs, in particular through the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.
- Following the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, UNIATF's scope of work was expanded in 2016 to include "NCD related SDGs" – i.e. mental health, violence and injuries, nutrition, and environmental issues that impact on NCDs.

### What are NCDs?

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors.
- The main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.

### Concerns:

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally.
- Each year, 15 million people die from a NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 85% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

- Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.0 million), respiratory diseases (3.9million), and diabetes (1.6 million).
- These 4 groups of diseases account for over 80% of all premature NCD deaths.
- Tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets all increase the risk of dying from a NCD.
- Detection, screening and treatment of NCDs, as well as palliative care, are key components of the response to NCDs.

### **What are the socioeconomic impacts of NCDs?**

- NCDs threaten progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a target of reducing premature deaths from NCDs by one-third by 2030.
- Poverty is closely linked with NCDs. The rapid rise in NCDs is predicted to impede poverty reduction initiatives in low-income countries, particularly by increasing household costs associated with health care. Vulnerable and socially disadvantaged people get sicker and die sooner than people of higher social positions, especially because they are at greater risk of being exposed to harmful products, such as tobacco, or unhealthy dietary practices, and have limited access to health services.
- In low-resource settings, health-care costs for NCDs quickly drain household resources. The exorbitant costs of NCDs, including often lengthy and expensive treatment and loss of breadwinners, force millions of people into poverty annually and stifle development.

## **15. CPEC won't lead to a debt trap, says China**

### **Context:**

China has rejected accusations that its financial backing for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a “debt trap” that could compromise Islamabad’s sovereignty.

### **What is CPEC?**

- CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is a collection of infrastructure projects that are currently under construction throughout Pakistan. A vast network of highways and railways are to be built under the aegis of CPEC that will span the length and breadth of Pakistan.
- China-led Belt and Road Initiative is the flagship of CPEC. It generated 70,000 new jobs. During the first phase, the CPEC’s focus has been on energy and infrastructure projects

### **Pakistan army assures support**

- Pakistan military will “guarantee” the smooth development of CPEC

- Pakistani military is the protector of the China-Pakistan friendship, and the bilateral military relations.
- Pakistan was committed to firmly fight the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as part of its counterterrorism effort.
- The undiminished relevance of the trilateral China-Pakistan-Afghanistan dialogue as a platform to align perceptions between Islamabad and Kabul. Afghanistan participated in CPEC.
- China has also apparently agreed to train an Afghan mountain brigade without putting any boots on the ground in Afghanistan.

## **16. 'US now has greater confidence in sharing technologies with India'**

### **Context:**

- The inaugural "2+2" dialogue between the defence and foreign ministers of India and the US, which took place last week, has brought the spotlight back on the positives in bilateral ties.
- The signing of the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) is not so much about India aligning with US interests, but shows that the US has greater confidence in sharing high-level technologies with India, which would contribute to building its capabilities.

### **What was the outcome of the first ever "2+2" dialogue? The "2+2" served its purpose at this stage amid some dissonance in bilateral relations, and flux in global order.**

- With the "2+2" having been postponed twice, and President (Donald) Trump's priority focus being elsewhere, differences on tariffs, market access, intellectual property had acquired centre stage in setting the tone for the relationship.
- This meeting once again highlighted the positive, the convergence in interests, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and in the fight against terrorism.
- Several decisions, such as signing of the COMCASA, agreeing to the first tri-services joint exercises, and establishment of hot lines between the foreign and defence ministers and their counterparts, were taken. This would provide additional mechanisms for enhancing coordination and confidence.

### **Differences and challenges in India-US relations:**

- There are many areas where our approaches differ.
- In India, the US focus on India's US-specific trade surplus is seen as not reasonable. We have an overall trade deficit.
- Domestic politics driven by US sanctions on Iran and Russia can have collateral negative consequences for India.



- We will need to carefully watch the US's engagement with the Taliban as it would have consequences for Indian interests in Afghanistan.
- Every country takes its decisions in its own interests. An effective strategy for us would be to see the convergences, and work on those while doing what we can do to protect our interests.
- While dealing with the differences, the overall perspective must also be kept in view.
- It was clear from the public comments that while India made its concerns known on the H-1B visa issue, it made the argument in terms of how it helped innovation and profitability in the US and deepened economic linkages between the two countries.
- It also said how it would contribute to India's economic strength, which US defence secretary (James) Mattis described as a "stabilizing force on the region's geographic front lines".

### **COMCASA is not a turning point in India-US defence ties:**

- It was not a turning point between India-US relations
- It is one more step in the gradual consolidation of defence and other cooperation, which will enable higher levels of technology releases.
- In 2016, the US had declared India as a major defence partner.
- The two countries had signed a logistics exchange memorandum of agreement.
- Earlier this year, the US placed India in the Tier 1 category of the license exemption strategic trade authorization, on a par with its closest allies and partners.
- COMCASA will enable India to source high-level communication technologies from the US for our defence platforms, which would enhance their effectiveness.
- It signals not so much about India aligning with US interests, but as US having greater confidence in sharing high-level technologies with India and contributing to building our capacities.
- It is a decision that clearly India has taken in its own interest, after extended negotiations to fine-tune the text accordingly. Other interlocutors have to recognize this.

### **Significance of the Indian military having exchanges with the US central command and the exchanges between the US Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and the Indian Navy**

- On the military side, India presently has cooperation and exchanges with the US Indo-Pacific command, which focuses on the region from west coast of India to the West Coast of the US.
- This has been helpful, from our point of view, since the US sees convergence in our interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

- India does the Malabar series of naval exercises, and meet also in the trilateral India-US-Japan framework, and the quadrilateral, with the inclusion of Australia.
- While having strong economic relations, every country is trying to build networks of cooperation to deal with the consequences of a rising China. But India's interests are not confined to the Indo-Pacific alone.
- Issues related to Afghanistan, Iran and the Gulf have a bearing on our security and economic interests on account of terrorism, energy imports, Diaspora presence, etc.
- For the US, this region is in focus for the CENTCOM (Central Command).
- Engaging with the decision-making in CENTCOM to protect our interests would also be useful.

### **Differences over how India views the Indo-Pacific and how the US views it to balance China at 2+2:**

- There was clearly a difference in perception with India saying that the Indo-Pacific was "open and inclusive" and the US's stress on countering China.
- No two countries can have a 100% alignment in their interests, more so countries as diverse as India and the US, with different histories, geopolitical location, and varying global role and presence.
- However, there is some similarity in how both try to balance between competition, cooperation and hedging in their relations with China.
- US trade of \$500 billion, and Chinese investment of \$1 trillion in US securities is a far higher order of economic linkage.
- The US now sees a challenge from China's growing military strength and assertiveness, and aspirations for high technology absorption in its industry.
- "Free and open Indo-Pacific" is a term that has been used by both India and the US, suggesting that China's rise should not lead to its curtailing options for other countries.
- There were also differences between India and the US over Iran and Russia, on the question of India's fuel imports and Chabahar in the case of the former, and the acquisition of the S-400 from Russia.

### **Discussions on the H-1B visa issue:**

- The Trade Policy Forum at ministerial level is scheduled to meet in early November.
- At this meeting, the economic relations would have been mentioned from the strategic perspective, and the role of H-1B visas in deepening linkages was flagged.
- Trump's latest comment challenging continuation of GSP benefits to India reflect the current challenges, but it would be best to address

the issue in a transactional manner at this stage, while keeping the long-term view and overall interests in mind.

**Way forward:**

- US will practise “partnership economics” with India
- “Partnership economics” would clearly imply more business dealings between Indian and US entities.
- Recently, Lockheed Martin entered into an agreement with the Tatas to provide parts for their global F-16 supplies.
- Working for such deals, including in nuclear energy, will provide for a more solid underpinning to the strategic ties.

**17. World Hindu Congress (WHC)****Context:**

The second World Hindu Congress is being held in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.

- It is inspired by the Hindu principle, Sumantrite Suvikrante or THINK COLLECTIVELY, ACHIEVE VALIANTLY.
- On the eve of the 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda’s historic address to the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago, Hindus from around the world and of all backgrounds are invited to actively participate.

**About WHC:**

- The World Hindu Congress (WHC) 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 and tap into our collective resources to seek tangible solutions to the most pressing issues of our age.
- Held once every four years, WHC’s seven parallel conferences showcase how the values, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of the global Hindu community find expression in a variety of spheres, including economic, education, media, organizational, and political, as well as the unique leadership and contributions of Hindu women and youth.
- WHC also serves as a platform to address critical issues impacting Hindus worldwide, including human rights, discrimination, and cultural assaults.

**Why World Hindu Congress?**

- In the past, Hindus have held a number of forums and conferences intermittently. But the outcomes of resulting resolutions and implementation of action plans have been sporadic at best. Many of these events never covered dimensions critically important to Hindus such as education, media, politics, and economy with regularity. Moreover, not many of these events were cross-dimensional in nature.

- Hindus have both spiritual and secular needs. Unfortunately, many of the secular needs and challenges have been left for others to handle. The WHC seeks to fill in this very important gap.
- The World Hindu Congress is an informal organization organized by World Hindu Foundation. But it is dependent on the efforts of volunteers representing Hindu organizations from around the world. Each Congress will be held in a different part of the world. All Hindu organizations, associations, and institutions are encouraged to participate and invited to become partners in World Hindu Congress.

## 18. BIMSTEC Military Exercise

### Context:

The first BIMSTEC field training exercise is being held at Foreign Training Node at Aundh in Pune, Maharashtra. Armies of BIMSTEC members including India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and Nepal will participate in it.

- **Theme:** The theme of exercise includes counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain and cordon and search.
- The main aim of this military exercise is to promote strategic alignment among the member-states and to share best practices in the area of counter-terrorism.
- **Nepal is not participating in the exercise.** The withdrawal of the Nepal Army from the event comes in the wake of stringent criticism from the ruling and opposition parties in the country, warning Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli that the move would go against the country's history of following a policy of keeping equal distance from its neighbours, without ever being part of a regional bloc militarily.

### About BIMSTEC:

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising of seven member states in South Asia and Southeast Asia lying in littoral and adjacent areas of Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- This sub-regional organisation came into being on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration. It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It comprises of seven member countries: five deriving from South Asia — including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka — and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.



## 19. Indo – Mongolian Joint Exercise: Nomadic Elephant

### Context:

INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 is being held in Ullanbaatar, Mongolia.

- Exercise Nomadic Elephant is an annual, bilateral exercise since 2006 which is designed to strengthen the partnership between Indian Army and Mongolian Armed Forces. The exercise will see them improve their tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario under United Nations mandate.

### About Mongolia:

- Mongolia is a landlocked unitary sovereign state in East Asia.
- It is sandwiched between China to the south and Russia to the north.
- It is also the world's second-largest landlocked country behind Kazakhstan and the largest landlocked country that does not border a closed sea.

Location	Contact Number	Batch Date
ASHOK NAGAR	+91 991 244 1138	JULY 09 MONDAY
MADHAPUR	+91 990 856 4438	JUNE 09 SATURDAY
NEW DELHI	+91 880 028 3132	JULY 02 MONDAY
VISAKHAPATNAM	+91 998 513 6789	JUNE 25 MONDAY
GUNTUR	+91 996 335 6789	JULY 02 MONDAY

**ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR NEW BATCHES**

## Economy

### 20. Enabling a 'mineable' global reserve currency

#### Global reserve currency (GRC):

- The idea of a global reserve currency (GRC) issued by a supranational entity was debated at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.



- The UK's official proposal to the conference, as put forward by John Maynard Keynes, consisted of international bank money called "bancor" to be issued by an entity to be called the International Clearing Union (ICU).

- The concept was not original to

Keynes and may be attributed to Silvio Gesell, who, in the 1920s, proposed to issue a global monetary unit called "iva".

#### Debate over GRC:

- post-2008, the idea of GRC on the lines of bancor made a tentative re-entry in popular economic debates.
- It often appears that the health of the world economy, particularly for a lot of emerging nations, depends on the US Federal Reserve continuing to expand its balance sheet and fiscal deficit.
- The moment there is a discussion by Fed on unwinding its "easy money" policy, there is often a capital flight, of differing intensities, from emerging markets. Part of this phenomenon may be attributed to the US dollar being the de facto GRC.
- As Keynes pointed out from the UK's experience in the pre-1930s, the sovereign which issues global reserve currency tends to have a deflationary overhang on its domestic economy. So while the US should and would try to take the best decisions for its economy, global regulators need to assess tools to minimize the adverse fallout on emerging economies.
- A GRC such as bancor may be an answer to this problem as it may provide an alternative to the US dollar

**Keynes' proposal over GRC:**

- Keynes' original proposal included a formula for calculating the maximum balance allowed for a country. It was to be driven by the country's net trade position in the previous three years.
- In 1940s, Keynes' proposal was computationally demanding. However, modern technology is capable of capturing real-time data on trade and cross border financing.
- Subject to political consensus, more involved rules for determining the country-wise quota is technically feasible.

**Paul Davidson proposals over GRC:**

- Paul Davidson solution was a closed, double-entry bookkeeping clearing institution to keep the payments 'score' among the various trading nations plus some mutually agreed upon rules to create and reflux liquidity while maintaining the purchasing power of international currency.
- The proposed currency, called "International Money Clearing Unit" (IMCU), may be held only by central banks, which could also trade in IMCU among themselves.
- The private transactions may be cleared among central banks' accounts held with the clearing union.
- Davidson's construct calls for a technology that will allow peers (in this case central banks) to transact among themselves, without a central authority.

**World Coin:**

- The reserves of a central bank may be transparently tracked by its peers adding to the credence of the framework. This GRC may be named the "worldcoin".
- The world coin reserves of a country will depend on three types of transactions—trade, financing and "mining" of the reserve currency.
- To enable lending /borrowing in the reserve currency, the digital ledger would also keep track of which entity owns how much to whom.
- The technology to facilitate world coin with such features is available in the form of the database architecture called distributed ledger technology (DLT)

**Block chain technology in the field of GRC:**

- Block chain's uniqueness with respect to conventional databases lies in its ability to enable peer-to-peer transactions without the need for a centralized monitoring/administrative entity. In addition, it is capable of tracking the entire path of how a unit of account reached its current owner.
- The digital ledger function would support tracking the reserve-based

trade and financing, block chain will enable central banks to mine world coin.

- The algorithms to mine world coin may be driven by macro-economic inputs such as inflation, growth and fiscal deficit. However, the central banks need not require a cryptographic element of block chain. In fact, a body such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may provide the coordination and technical support.

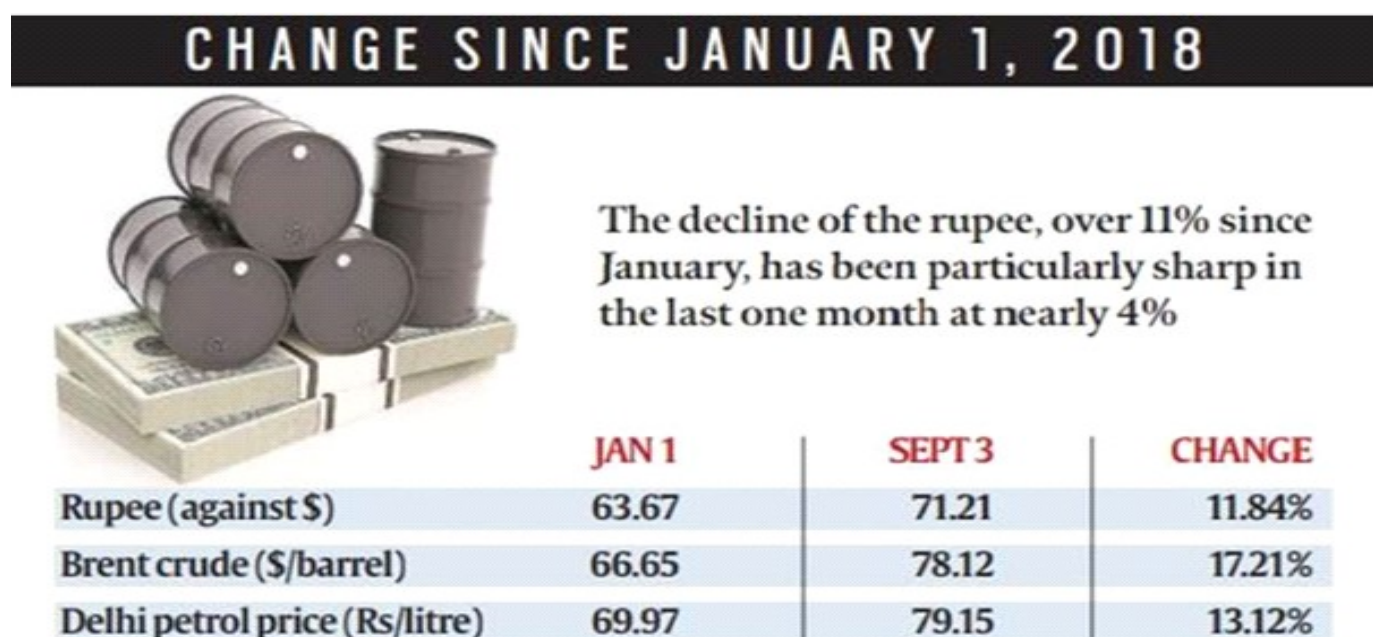
### Way forward:

A country's neutral reserve currency may limit foreign currency risk-driven contagion in emerging nations, while allowing the US to unwind unconventional monetary policy and correct its fiscal deficit. Further, a world coin would ensure that speculative trade on foreign currency (FX) is reduced and FX is used for real economic purpose. This may disrupt the functioning of FX currency markets, particularly FX speculation trades.

## 21. Why rupee fall remains a worry

### Context:

Amid a rise in global crude oil prices, geopolitical uncertainty and a decline in the rupee, fuel prices across the country have witnessed a sharp spike over the last one month.



### What has changed recently?

- The Indian rupee, which hovered around 68.50 to a dollar until a month ago, suddenly went into a decline, falling by nearly 4% over the last one month leading to the low of 71.21.
- While rising crude oil prices were already having an impact on the rupee, a free fall of the Turkish lira following an economic crisis in that country impacted emerging economy currencies, which lost ground against the dollar.



- Concerns over US-China trade talks, too, have had an impact on emerging market currencies over the last couple of months.
- A weak rupee not only hurts the country and its importers on account of a higher import bill and current account deficit but also tends to be inflationary. The situation will be keenly watched by the Reserve Bank of India.

### **Why have crude prices gone up?**

- Concerns around US sanctions are a rising threat to oil supplies, leading to a spike in crude prices.
- Although prices remained volatile and hovered between \$70 and \$75 per barrel between June and August, they have risen particularly sharply over the last couple of weeks to hit \$78.12
- While there are disruptions to crude supply from Iran and Venezuela, there is widespread concern that the global oil market will get squeezed over the next few months as US sanctions restrict crude exports from Iran.
- Even as Saudi Arabia and some other major oil producers could raise their output, the market feels that it may not be enough to offset declines in Iran, Libya and Venezuela that are grappling with crises.
- The situation is expected to remain tight and oil prices may continue to rule high.

### **How do higher fuel prices impact the economy?**

#### **INFLATION:**

- High fuel prices have a direct bearing on the non-food parts of CPI (Consumer Price Index) and WPI (Wholesale Price Index) inflation and it may have a bearing on the RBI's decision to go for another interest rate hike in its efforts to contain inflation.
- "RBI would have to take action on interest rates and there would definitely be another rate hike of at least 25 bps (basis points).
- There is nothing the government can do to check the rise in global crude oil prices, nor can it do much to check the fall of the rupee as it is driven mostly by external factors.
- The RBI, however, intervenes intermittently to check excessive volatility in the currency market.
- A report released by Care Ratings notes that while the government can go for a reduction of excise duty or VAT by central and state governments to bring down the fuel price burden on consumers, "it would mean lower revenue collections.
- In July '18, the consumption of petrol and high speed diesel stood at around 8,900 thousand tonnes.

- If the excise duty is reduced by Rs 1/litre it might lead to reduction in revenue collections of around Rs 7,000-8,000 crore on an annualized basis”.

### **CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT:**

- This is a measure of country's trade, when the value of goods and services it imports exceeds the value of goods and services it exports.
- The current account also includes net income, including interest and dividends, and remittances. A high CAD can create macro-economic vulnerability in an economy, especially affecting stability in currency markets.
- India's CAD is typically vulnerable to any rise in international crude oil prices as the country imports around 85% of its oil requirements.
- Rising global oil prices, when coupled with a sharp depreciation in the rupee, creates a double blow for the CAD as the country's import bill spikes even though the volume of import may remain the same.
- CAD is measured as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product.
- Since 2013-14, when international crude oil prices started declining sharply, the CAD too fell in tandem, to 1.7% in 2013-14, 1.3% in 2014-15, 1.1% in 2015-16 and a low of 0.6% in 2016-17. In 2017-18, with the increase in oil prices, the CAD jumped to 1.9% in 2017-18.
- The widening of the CAD was mainly due to a higher trade deficit brought about by a larger increase in merchandise imports relative to exports.
- India had to resort to severe restrictions on gold imports and raise foreign currency deposits at higher rates to protect the macro-economic health of the country.

### **Conclusion:**

Going forward, should a similar situation arise and the rupee continues to depreciate, the government could look at raising funds through issuance of NRI bonds to stabilise the currency.

## **22. India's impossible trinity problem**

### **Context:**

An open capital account with a floating exchange rate will always lead to periods of appreciation or depreciation

### **What had happened?**

- The Indian rupee has been trading at historically low levels.
- Comparisons have been made between now and the external sector situation India found itself in 2013. The comparisons begin with the depreciation in the rupee, foreign investment outflows and a widening current account deficit.

- The current government is committed to fiscal consolidation and inflation is well below the double-digit levels witnessed in 2013.
- Foreign exchange reserves have risen substantially. India's exchange reserves now cover approximately 10 months of imports, compared to 6.5 months of imports in June 2013.
- It should also be pointed out that foreign investment inflows, particularly portfolio inflows, have also turned positive since July this year. While the gains are somewhat modest, the pace of inflows seems to have accelerated.
- The depreciation episodes of 2013 and 2018 are symptomatic of the impossible trinity, a concept in international economics.
- It states that a country cannot have a fixed exchange rate, an independent monetary policy and free capital flows at the same time.
- An independent monetary policy in this context means independence from external factors. The trilemma implies that an open economy can only achieve two of these objectives at the expense of the third.
- Countries across the world have chosen different combinations in this trinity. The US, for example, has an independent monetary policy and no capital controls, resulting in a flexible exchange rate.
- On the other hand, countries in the EU have given up monetary policy independence for a stable exchange rate and financial integration.
- Countries across the world have faced, and bowed, to this impossible trinity.
- In India, August 2013, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed partial capital controls to stem the depreciation of the rupee.
- Direct investments by Indian companies abroad were curtailed, remittances limits for Indians sending money abroad were reduced and a scheme to encourage foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits was introduced.
- As the rupee stabilized, these measures were gradually removed. Therefore, opting for a stable exchange rate, partial controls were enacted.
- Now in the pressure of foreign portfolio investment outflows this fiscal, India faces a similar trilemma.
- Should the currency be allowed to depreciate further? If not, the RBI must either impose capital controls or increase interest rates to raise the value of the rupee.
- Having just raised rates in its last policy review, it is quite unlikely that the RBI will raise rates in reaction to a depreciating rupee.
- A depreciated rupee does have its benefits
  - i. making our exports cheaper

- ii. A depreciated rupee will affect the price of our imported products
- Factors affecting foreign currency inflows can be decomposed into “push” or “pull” factors.
- Pull factors are country-specific factors, such as economic growth, interest rates and fiscal stability that attract or “pull” foreign investment.
- Push factors, on the other hand, describe situations where low interest rates in advanced markets “push” capital into emerging markets.
- Emerging markets must deal with both volatile inflows and outflows in domestic markets.

**Conclusion:**

An open capital account with a floating exchange rate will always lead to periods of appreciation or depreciation. With India running a CAD, foreign inflows are necessary to finance this deficit. If portfolio flows turn negative, other sources of funds are needed to fund the CAD. Software exports and remittances have been strong sources of fund inflows for India historically.

However, it has been pointed out that both software exports and remittances have been falling as a share of gross domestic product (GDP). On the other hand, in absolute terms, net software exports and remittances have returned to the levels seen in 2015. India, like other countries, cannot escape the impossible trinity.

Market forces should be allowed to determine the nominal exchange rate, but the RBI must monitor the volatility and intervene when necessary.

**23. Relax PCA, capital adequacy rules: House panel to RBI****Context:**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, in its latest report on the stress in the banking sector, has asked the Reserve Bank of India to relax the PCA framework as well as the tighter capital adequacy rules to provide banks some leeway in expanding credit.

**Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework:**

- Out of 21 PSBs in the country, 11 currently under the RBI's PCA framework, which kicks in when banks breach any of the three key regulatory trigger points — capital to risk weighted assets ratio, net NPA and Return on Assets.
- With a total of 11 public sector banks under the Reserve Bank of India's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework, a Parliamentary panel has warned that more banks may come under the PCA resulting in a vicious cycle in the banking sector.
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, in its latest report on the stress in the banking sector, has asked the Reserve Bank of



India to relax the PCA framework as well as the tighter capital adequacy rules to provide banks some leeway in expanding credit.

RISK THRESHOLDS AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS		
RISK THRESHOLD 1	RISK THRESHOLD 2	RISK THRESHOLD 3
<p>RESTRICTION ON DIVIDEND / DISTRIBUTION/REMITTANCE OF PROFITS.</p> <p>MORE CAPITAL TO BE BROUGHT IN BY OWNER / PROMOTERS IN CASE OF FOREIGN BANKS.</p> <p>DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS BY REGULATOR.</p>	<p>IN ADDITION OF ACTIONS UNDER RISK THRESHOLD 1,</p> <p>RESTRICTIONS ON BRANCH EXPANSION - DOMESTIC / OR OVERSEAS</p> <p>HIGHER PROVISIONS AS PART OF COVERAGE REGIME</p> <p>DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS BY REGULATOR.</p>	<p>RESTRICTIONS ON DIVIDEND.</p> <p>RESTRICTIONS ON BRANCH EXPANSION.</p> <p>RESTRICTIONS ON MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION AND DIRECTOR'S FEES.</p> <p>DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS BY REGULATOR.</p>

### Implication of PCA:

- Depending on the risk thresholds set in PCA rules, the banks are restricted from paying dividend, expanding the number of branches, staff recruitment and increasing the size of their loan book.
- Two lenders, Dena Bank and Allahabad Bank are facing restrictions on granting fresh loans.

### Parliamentary committee recommendation on PCA:

- The Committee is apprehensive that the PCA framework may end up bringing more and more PSBs under its ambit, which may aggravate matters and culminate in a vicious cycle in the banking sector and the economy at large.
- The Committee would therefore urge both the RBI and the government to constantly monitor the situation for each of these banks and relax/review the PCA framework especially in case of Banks where even retail banking is prohibited.
- The Committee was concerned that loan write-offs at PSBs grew at a faster rate than outstanding loans in the last quarter on account of lower credit. It has been reported that a group of 16 large and mid-sized PSBs has written off more than Rs 31,000 crore in the June quarter of 2018-19, which is stated to be a 37 per cent increase over a year ago, whereas the same set of banks saw a meager 4.5 per cent growth in their loan book during that period.
- The panel asked the RBI to review its regulations governing minimum capital requirements for 9 PSBs that are not internationally active.

- The banking regulator requires banks to maintain a capital adequacy ratio by one percentage point higher than global Basel norms both under Basel II and Basel III framework.
- The panel said that RBI rules for these nine banks — Central Bank of India, Andhra Bank, OBC, Corporation Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, United Bank of India, Dena Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank — translates into additional capital requirement of around Rs 35,000 crore. As on March 31, 2018, these nine banks had outstanding loans of Rs 9.93 lakh crore. All these banks are under the PCA framework.

### **Way forward:**

Such stringent norms stipulated by RBI for our banks, particularly the aforementioned nine banks, who are not internationally active at all, is unrealistic and unwarranted. The stipulated additional capital requirement for these nine banks, if waived, will release huge funds to the extent of approximately Rs.5.34 lakh crore, representing 51 per cent growth in the loan book of these banks, generating additional interest income of around Rs.50,000 crore annually, which will obviate the need for additional capital infusion into these banks through our fiscally constrained national budget.

## **24. Why you shouldn't expect a cut in fuel prices any time soon**

### **Context:**

Why it is so difficult for governments to cut taxes on auto fuels and could the inclusion of petrol and diesel under GST change this situation? All your questions answered.

### **What had happened?**

As petrol and diesel climbed to all-time, the government ruled out any immediate reduction in excise duty in order to bring down the retail prices of auto fuels, and instead urged the states to take action.

Andhra Pradesh announced a Rs 2 per litre cut in VAT on petrol and diesel following poll-bound Rajasthan's announcement of a 4 percentage point cut.

### **Why is it so difficult for governments to cut taxes on auto fuels?**

- Taxes on petrol and diesel are a key revenue source for both the Centre and states, and a cut will hit their fiscal position.
- The Centre mopped up Rs 2.29 lakh crore from excise duty on petroleum products in 2017-18 and Rs 2.42 lakh crore in 2016-17. Excise duty on petrol is currently Rs 19.48 per litre, and on diesel, Rs 15.33 per litre.
- The Centre raised excise duty nine times between November 2014 and January 2016 to shore up its finances as global oil prices fell. It cut excise duty just once — by Rs 2 per litre — in October last year.

- Crude petroleum attracts 20% oil industry development cess, and a National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) of Rs 50 per metric tonne. There's no Customs duty on crude, but petrol and diesel attract a Customs duty of 2.5%.
- Rates of state sales tax or Value Added Tax (VAT) vary from state to state. Unlike excise duty, VAT is ad valorem, and results in higher revenues for the state when rates move up.
- States' earnings through sales tax/VAT on petroleum products increased to Rs 1.84 lakh crore in 2017-18 from Rs 1.66 lakh crore in 2016-17.
- Most states that impose the highest tax rates on petrol and diesel are struggling with high gross fiscal deficit as a percentage of their GDP.
- Among the states that impose the highest VAT on petrol and diesel, Maharashtra, with a fiscal deficit of 1.8% of GDP, may have some room to reduce levies. With a fiscal deficit of 0.3%, Delhi, too, has some cushion, even though its VAT rate on petrol is relatively low at 27%.
- Among the 29 states, Goa has the lowest VAT rate of 17%, plus a green cess of 0.5%, on petrol.
- Rajasthan had a fiscal deficit of 3.5% in 2017-18, and plans to keep it to 3.0% in 2018-19.
- Besides taxes, the Centre and the states have other earnings, too, from the petroleum sector.
- Adding dividend income, dividend distribution tax, corporate/income tax and profit on exploration of oil and gas, the Centre's total earnings from crude and petroleum products were Rs 3.43 lakh crore in 2017-18 and Rs 3.34 lakh crore in 2016-17.
- Along with the dividend income, state governments' earnings from crude and petroleum products stood at Rs 2.09 lakh crore in 2017-18, and Rs 1.89 lakh crore in 2016-17.

### **Could the inclusion of petrol and diesel under GST change this situation?**

- LPG, kerosene, naphtha, furnace oil, and light diesel oil attract GST, but five other petroleum products — crude oil, high speed diesel, motor spirit (petrol), natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel — lie outside the new tax regime.
- The Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Civil Aviation have approached the Finance Ministry for inclusion of petrol and diesel, and jet fuel respectively under GST.
- Natural gas and jet fuel will likely be the first of the five to enter the GST tent, contingent upon approval by the GST Council, neither the Centre nor the states have so far been forthcoming on including these five petroleum products in the new indirect tax regime.

- If petrol and diesel are included under GST, prices are unlikely to fall. This is because of the GST principle of keeping rates close to the earlier tax rates.
- Bringing petrol and diesel under GST would not have a big impact on prices, as states will levy additional taxes to boost revenues.

### **So does it mean that if the government does not cut prices, it will have insulated its finances from erosion?**

- The Centre may still have to bear some direct costs, since all fuel product prices are not market-linked.
- Kerosene and LPG prices continue to be regulated, with the government subsidising these products to protect society's weaker sections.
- The depreciating currency — the rupee crashed 94 paise to 72.67 against the dollar Monday before closing at a life-low of 72.45 — and rising crude oil and gas prices will only raise the government's subsidy burden on these two items.
- Higher oil prices and capital outflows push up inflation, significantly increasing the government's borrowing costs.
- RBI has raised the repo rate — its key lending rate — at two successive meetings by a total of 50 basis points, and is expected to raise it further.

## **25. How record high fuel prices affect India's Economy**

### **Context:**

Petrol and diesel prices in India touched a record high on Tuesday, following a spike in global crude prices and a depreciating rupee. Now we will analyse the reasons for the soaring prices and how they affect the consumer and India's import bill



### **What is the reason behind the price rise?**

The spike in oil prices is due to several factors. President Donald Trump pulling the US out of 2015 accord with Iran and the rupee breaching 71 to a Dollar. So far in 2018, the rupee had weakened around 11%.

An Icria report said global

oil prices have risen about 10% in the past two weeks on declining inventories, drop in Iranian exports. Iran's exports fell 0.6 million barrels per day (mbd) in August from 2.3 mbd in July. Retail prices of petrol, Diesel



in India track global prices of these fuels, not crude, although they are broadly linked to its trends.

### **Is there cause for India to be worried?**

Any rally in global crude oil prices will increase the country's oil import bill and trade deficit: every dollar increases in the prices of oil impacts the import bill by around Rs.10, 700 crores on an annual basis. Imports of oil surged by more than 25% in the fiscal 2018 to \$109 billion from the year ago period. High oil prices are likely to push up the country's trade deficit and in turn, its current account deficit. Soaring prices of oil are also likely to put pressure on the margins of India's oil marketing companies

### **What is the government stand on the issue?**

The government had held its nerve by not intervening in the global crude price rally. The government had said that it has got no role in the pricing.

### **What else gets loaded on to fuel prices?**

The cost of the Indian basket of crude rose to \$76.67 a barrel on Monday, says petroleum planning and analysis cell data. Care rating says taxes at the central and state level are added to this price, besides dealer's commission, to arrive at the final price. As diesel, petrol, crude, natural gas and jet fuel are outside the GST preview; state can impose VAT on these items.

### **What is the tax rate for petrol, diesel and their share in the tax revenue?**

While the centres excise rate is fixed and is around Rs.20 per litre on petrol and Rs.15.25 on diesel, VAT or sales tax rates vary from 11.5% to 25%. Of the Rs.8 trillion of exercise, service tax and GST collected last year, petroleum and petroleum products accounted for 36%, says Care Ratings. They accounted for 20% of states own tax revenue.

## **26. Payments banks and regular banks are different from each other**

### **Context:**

- Recently PM Modi launched the payments bank of Indian postal department that will take banking to doorstep of every citizen through its vast network. IPPB became operational on 1 September
- Speaking at the launch, the Prime Minister said, "Through India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) we will reach to every nook and corner of the country. Bank and banking services will be available at every person's doorstep."
- The IPPB will use the network of post offices and almost 3 lakh postmen and 'Grameen Dak Sewaks' to provide banking services in every part of the country, especially in rural areas.

## **How is a payments bank different than our regular bank?**

### **PAYMENTS BANK**

- According to the Reserve Bank of India guidelines for licensing of payments banks, the main objective of a payments bank is to enhance financial inclusion.
- This is expected to be done by providing small savings accounts, payments and remittance services to migrant labour workforce, low income households, small businesses, other unorganized sector entities and other users.
- In August 2015, RBI had given in-principle approval to 11 entities to start payments bank in India, which included the department of posts.
- Airtel Payments Bank was the first one to launch.
- At present, other payments banks like Paytm Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank and Aditya Birla Payments Bank are also operational. IPPB had started.

### **HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?**

- A payments bank aims to further financial inclusion, especially through savings accounts and payments services. Accordingly, a payments bank is not allowed to give any form of loan or issue a credit card, which is also a form of unsecured personal loan.
- Even in case of savings accounts, a payments bank has certain restrictions. Customers can open a savings account with deposits of only up to ' 1 lakh, which is also the maximum balance allowed. These banks currently offer interest rates similar to that being offered by regular banks. As per RBI guidelines, payments banks can't accept fixed or recurring deposits.

### **IPPB ACCOUNTS**

- IPPB will be offering 4% interest to its savings account customers. It is also offering doorstep services to its customers, under which opening an account will be free of cost, but other services like cash transactions are charged at ' 25 (plus GST) and noncash transactions at ' 15 (plus GST).
- Moreover, IPPB account holders will be issued a QR Card with a unique QR code. The transactions using the card will be authenticated using the account holder's biometrics. While the card can be used for transactions like bill payments, cashless purchases and money transfer, it cannot be used to withdraw cash from an ATM. IPPB is not offering its customers an ATM or debit card at present.
- Savings accounts customers also do not have the cheque book facility at present. Current account holders will have this facility, though.
- IPPB account holders can also use the mobile banking app for checking balance, statement, bill payments and for online transfers.

## THE DELAY

- Over-leveraging, launching projects without approval, regulatory road blocks and failure to anticipate market are the reasons for their delay.
- Also, many of these delayed projects do not even fall under the ambit of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Authority (RERA), 2016.
- The implementation of policies like RERA and GST, the issue of stalled or delayed projects that has primarily been at the core of buyers' discontent is yet to be addressed satisfactorily.
- Dilution and delay in implementation of RERA is another reason. "RERA policies have been flouted across many states; several projects that have been ongoing since years do not come under its ambit due to dilutions.
- For instance, in Karnataka, all projects that are completed up to 60% or more are exempt from RERA purview. This is significant since maximum project delays occur post major structure formation and during the time of final finishing.

## BUYERS' OPTIONS

- Homebuyers stuck in delayed projects have limited options. "RERA may be effective in freeing only a limited amount of stuck inventory
- Also, RERA comes into force only when developers delay the delivery beyond the date mentioned while registering the projects with RERA. Taking advantage of this, many developers have given new deadlines that are 3-5 years away.
- Recently, Supreme Court ordered to attach the personal property of defaulting developers. Such stringent decisions could change things

## Important facts about India Post Payments Bank (IPPB):

- 1- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will be like any other banks but its operations will be on a smaller scale without involving any credit risk.
- 2- It will carry out most banking operations like accepting deposits but can't advance loans or issue credit cards.
- 3- The bank will accept deposits of up to Rs 1 lakh, offer remittance services, mobile payments/transfers/purchases and other banking services like ATM/debit cards, net banking and third-party fund transfers.
- 4- Deposits in any account that exceed Rs 1 lakh will be automatically converted into post office savings account. It will offer 4% interest rate on savings accounts.
- 5- IPPB services will be available at 650 branches and 3,250 access points from today but will be quickly scaled to all 1.55 lakh post

offices by December 2018. Of these, 1.30 lakh access points will be located in rural areas.

- 6-** The government owns 100% in IPPB, which has been set up under the aegis of the Department of Posts, and will offer products and services through multiple channels such as counter services, micro ATMs, mobile banking app, messages and interactive voice response.
- 7-** IPPB will leverage tech platforms. It will use Aadhaar to open accounts, while a QR card and biometrics will drive authentication, transactions, and payments. Grameen Dak Sewaks will be armed with smart phones and biometric devices to handle transactions.
- 8-** IPPB has teamed up with financial services providers like PNB and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance for third-party products like loans and insurance.
- 9-** The Cabinet, earlier this week, approved an 80% hike in spending on IPPB to Rs 1,435 crore - arming it with additional ammo to compete in the market with existing operators like Airtel Payments Bank and Paytm Payments Bank.

## 27. Power games

### Context:

Recently the Supreme Court has ordered a stay on the Reserve Bank of India's 12 circulars asking banks to recognize loans as non-performing even if repayment was delayed by just one day.

### Insolvency and bankrupt:

- Insolvency is a financial state of being – one that is reached when you are unable to pay off your debts on time.
- Typically, those who become insolvent will take certain steps toward a resolution. One of the most common solutions for insolvency is bankruptcy.
- Bankruptcy, on the other hand, is a legal process that serves the purpose of resolving the issue of insolvency.
- Bankruptcy is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts. When one files for bankruptcy, one obliges to pay off what is owed with help from the government.

### Insolvency and bankruptcy code provisions:

- The Code creates time-bound processes for insolvency resolution of companies and individuals. These processes will be completed within 180 (extended to 270) days.
- The resolution processes will be conducted by licensed insolvency professionals (IPs). These IPs will be members of insolvency professional agencies (IPAs)



- Information utilities (IUs) will be established to collect, collate and disseminate financial information to facilitate insolvency resolution.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will adjudicate insolvency resolution for companies. The Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) will adjudicate insolvency resolution for individuals.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India will be set up to regulate functioning of IPs, IPAs and IUs.
- Given that many corporate transactions and businesses involve an international element, the Code attempts to address this by including provisions for cross border insolvency.

### **Biggest challenge to IBC:**

- The Supreme Court has ordered a stay on the Reserve Bank of India's 12 circulars asking banks to recognize loans as non-performing even if repayment was delayed by just one day, and resolve them within 180 days.
- If banks failed to comply with the RBI's new rules, these stressed assets had to be forced to undergo swift insolvency proceedings under the new Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- The apex court's decision to overturn RBI rules and transfer all pleas seeking exception from them to it is clearly the biggest challenge against the IBC yet.
- It is likely to cause significant uncertainty in the resolution of stressed assets and undermine investor confidence in the bankruptcy process.

### **Criticism over IBC:**

- According to a report released by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India earlier this month, lenders could realistically expect to recover less than a tenth of their dues if stressed assets are to be liquidated.
- This could be attributed to the IBC's overemphasis on the speedy resolution of bad loans over the recovery of maximum value from stressed assets.
- Not surprisingly, several power companies emphasize that their assets could yield better returns if the issues are resolved completely outside the purview of the IBC.

### **Way forward:**

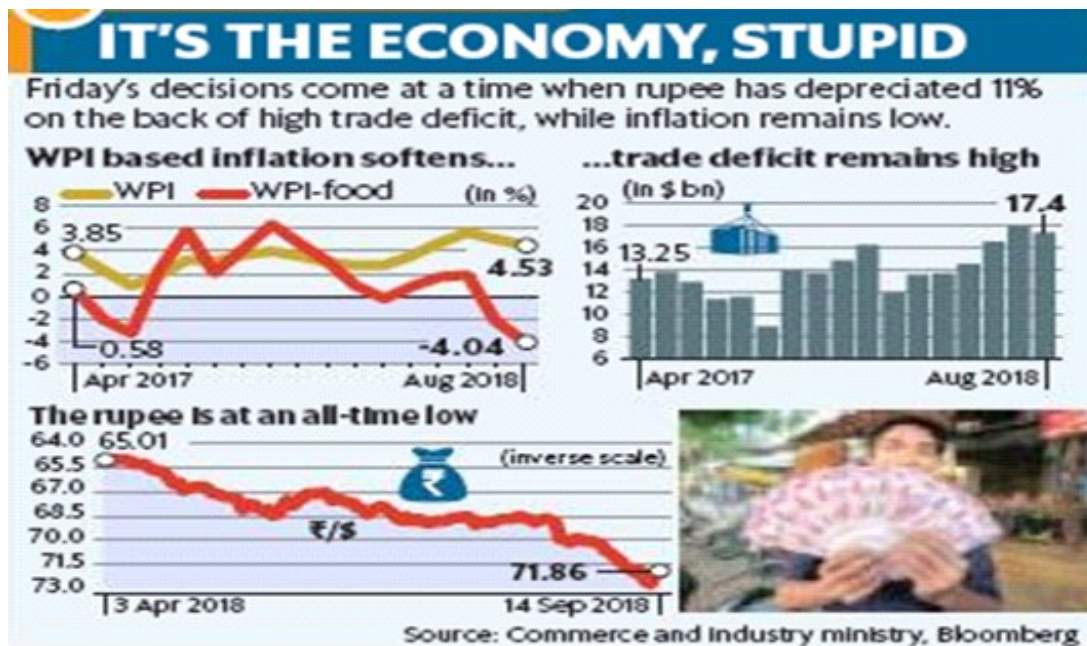
The Supreme Court's decision to intervene, however, will do very little good in the long run to either stressed power companies or their lenders. The troubles of power companies can be traced to structural issues such as the absence of meaningful price reforms, unreliable fuel supply and the unsustainable finances of public sector power distribution companies. Banks, on the other hand, are unlikely to make much money out of these stressed assets until these structural problems are sorted adequately to attract investors. Policymakers, not courts, need to take charge and resolve

these issues. That said, the current insolvency resolution process is not without its flaws.

## 28. FM takes steps to stem rupee fall, rein in CAD

### Context:

The rupee has depreciated more than 12% so far this year on a widening current account deficit and higher oil prices. On this move Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a series of measures to boost market confidence, curb the widening current account deficit and stabilize the rupee.



### Current account deficit:

- It means the value of imports of goods/services/investment incomes is greater than the value of exports. It is sometimes informally referred to as a trade deficit.
- The major contributor to India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) has been imports of Gold and Crude Oil.
- Sustained period of CAD has led to currency depreciation, high rates of inflation which further effects the incoming foreign investment.
- Fall in gold imports and lower oil import bill in recent time led to shrinkage in the deficit.
- A current account surplus means an economy is exporting a greater value of goods and services than it is importing.
- There is no hard and fast rule about what will happen if a country has a current account surplus. It depends on the size of the current account and the reasons for the current account surplus.
- In the case of India, slow growth in imports, reflecting the persisting weakness in the investment sentiment, is the prominent reason behind this.

## Finance minster proposals to reduce CAD:

- Mandatory hedging conditions for infrastructure loans through the external commercial borrowing (ECB) route will be reviewed.
- 20% exposure limit on investments by foreign portfolio investors in debt to a single corporate group will be removed.
- Government will permit the manufacturing sector to access ECBs up to \$50 million with residual maturity of one year instead of three years.
- Masala bonds will be exempted from withholding tax this financial year and Indian banks will be allowed to become market makers in masala bonds including by underwriting.
- Government will take efforts to reduce non-essential imports against the backdrop of India's rising trade deficit which stood at \$17.4 billion in August.

## Way forward:

As the dollar is strengthening and all accompanying fundamentals are strong, it looks difficult. However, our efforts to further strengthen FDI and promote exports — by diversification, improving the quality of our commodities, and focusing more on developing and emerging market economies will be helpful. That is the only long term sustainable and viable way to prevent the rupee from falling.

## 29. Debts Recovery Tribunals

### Context:

The central government has raised the pecuniary limit from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh for filing application for recovery of debts in the Debts Recovery Tribunals by such banks and financial institutions.

### THE BACKLOG

At the end of 2014, 59,645 cases involving ₹3.74 trillion were pending, up from 47,933 cases and ₹1.78 trillion at the end of 2013.

■ No. of cases disposed off ■ Amount disposed (₹ cr) ■ No. of cases pending ■ Amount pending (₹ cr)



Source: Dept of Financial Services

### Implications:

- The move is aimed at helping reduce pendency of cases in the 39 DRTs in the country.
- As a result, no bank or financial institution or a consortium of banks or financial institutions

can approach the DRTs if the amount due is less than Rs 20 lakh.

**What are DRTs?**

- Debt Recovery Tribunals were established to facilitate the debt recovery involving banks and other financial institutions with their customers. DRTs were set up after the passing of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDDBFI), 1993.
- Section 3 of the RDDBFI Act empowers the Central government to establish DRTs.
- Appeals against orders passed by DRTs lie before Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT).

**Powers and functions:**

- The Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) enforces provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (RDDBFI) Act, 1993 and also Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interests (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.
- The Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) are fully empowered to pass comprehensive orders and can travel beyond the Civil procedure Code to render complete justice. A Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) can hear cross suits, counter claims and allow set offs.
- However, a Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) cannot hear claims of damages or deficiency of services or breach of contract or criminal negligence on the part of the lenders. In addition, a Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) cannot express an opinion beyond its domain, or the list pending before it.
- The Debts Recovery Tribunal can appoint Receivers, Commissioners, pass ex-parte orders, ad-interim orders, interim orders apart from powers to Review its own decisions and hear appeals against orders passed by the Recovery Officers of the Tribunal.

**Other key facts:**

- A DRT is presided over by a presiding officer who is appointed by the central govt. and who shall be qualified to be a District Judge; with tenure of 5 years or the age of 62, whichever is earlier.
- No court in the country other than the SC and the HCs and that too, only under articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution have jurisdiction over this matter.

**30. Singapore's Temasek to invest in NIIF's Master Fund****Context:**

Singapore's Temasek has agreed to invest as much as \$400 million in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), a fund set up by the government of India to boost infrastructure financing in the country.



- With this, Temasek joins government of India, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), HDFC Group, ICICI Bank Ltd, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance and Axis Bank Ltd as investors in NIIF's Master Fund.

### About NIIF:

- The government had set up the ₹ 40,000 crore NIIF in 2015 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable Greenfield, brownfield and stalled infrastructure projects.
- The Indian government is investing 49% and the rest of the corpus is to be raised from third-party investors such as sovereign wealth funds, insurance and pension funds, endowments, etc.
- NIIF's mandate includes investing in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India.
- NIIF currently manages three funds each with its distinctive investment mandate. The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

### The three funds are:

- **Master Fund:** The Master Fund is an infrastructure fund with the objective of primarily investing in operating assets in the core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc.
- **Fund of Funds:** 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. Some of the sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.
- **Strategic Investment Fund:** Strategic Investment Fund is registered as an Alternative Investment Fund II under SEBI in India.

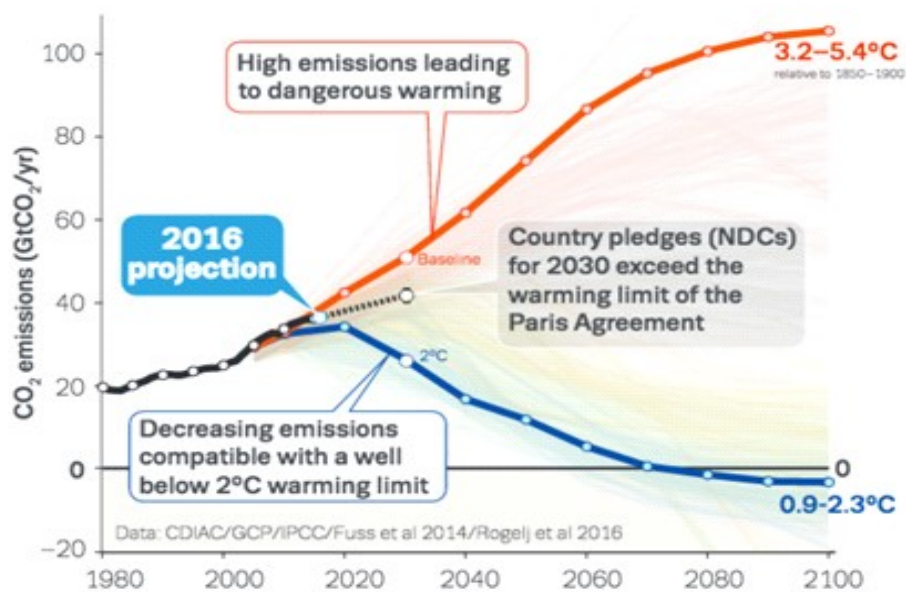
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## Geography and Environment

### 31. Cloudy forecast: on climate change

#### Context:

Recently the conference of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bangkok that was to draft a rulebook for the Paris Agreement ahead of a crucial international conference in **Poland** in December, ran into predictable difficulties over the issue of raising funds to help poorer nations.



Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1980 (solid black) and country pledges under the Paris Agreement (dashed) compared to a high emissions scenario (orange) and a scenario compatible with limiting warming to 2°C above pre-industrial levels (blue). Source: data from Le Quéré, C. et al. (2016) based on Rogelj et al. (2016); infographic can be found [here](#).

#### Role of developed nations under UNFCCC:

- Under the pact concluded in Paris, rich countries pledged to raise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and aid populations to cope with extreme events such as floods, droughts and storms.
- Obstructing the transition to a carbon-neutral pathway and preserving the status quo is short-sighted, simply because the losses caused by weather events are proving severely detrimental to all economies.
- By trying to stall climate justice to millions of poor people in vulnerable countries, the developed nations are refusing to accept their responsibility for historical emissions of GHGs.
- Those emissions raised living standards for their citizens but contributed heavily to the accumulated carbon dioxide burden, now measured at about 410 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, up from 280 ppm before the industrial revolution

**Pressure on India and China:**

- There is international pressure on China and India to cut GHG emissions. Both countries have committed themselves to a cleaner growth path.
- India, which reported annual CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions of 2.136 billion tonnes in 2010 to the UNFCCC two years ago, estimates that the GHG emissions intensity of its GDP has declined by 12% for the 2005-2010 periods.
- As members committed to the Paris Agreement, China and India have the responsibility of climate leadership in the developing world, and have to green their growth
- What developing countries need is a supportive framework in the form of a rulebook that binds the developed countries to their funding pledges, provides support for capacity building and transfer of green technologies on liberal terms

**Damage already done:**

- If scientific estimates are correct, the damage already done to the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is set to raise sea levels; a 2° Celsius rise will also destabilise the **Greenland** Ice Sheet.
- Failed agriculture in populous countries will drive more mass migrations of people, creating conflict

**Way forward:**

- A deeper insight on all this will be available in October when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change releases its scientific report on the impact of a 1.5° C rise in global average temperature.
- This is the time for the world's leaders to demonstrate that they are ready to go beyond expediency and take the actions needed to avert long-term catastrophe

**32. Heritage tag for 2 irrigation facilities in Telangana****Context:**

A meeting of the International Executive Council, the highest decision making body of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), at Saskatoon in Canada last month has accepted Telangana government's nomination of Sadarmatt anicut across river Godavari in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu in Kamareddy district in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

**Sadarmatt anicut:**

- It was constructed during 1891-92 across Godavari river on the left arm on downstream of Sriram Sagar Project near Medampally village in Nirmal. It was built by Nawab Iqbal-ud-Dowla who bore the title of Vicar-ul-Umrah Bahadur about 50 km downstream of the Sri Ram

Sagar Project (SRSP) and is chiefly fed by Sawrnavagu stream.

- The anicut was constructed only for irrigation purpose to provide water to 13,100 acres of land. While major crop being irrigated under Sadarmatt is paddy (contributing 80% of irrigated area), the other crops include maize and turmeric.

### **Pedda Cheruvu:**

- The Pedda Cheruvu (big tank in Telugu) was built in 1897 during the rule of Mir Mahaboob Ali Khan, the sixth Nizam of Hyderabad State. This tank was taken up under the second round of Mission Kakatiya to be developed as a mini tank bund with an estimated outlay of <sup>1</sup> 6.6 crore.

### **About International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID):**

- The ICID is a Technical and Voluntary Not-for-profit, International NGO, dedicated to enhance the world-wide supply of food and fibre for all people by improving water and land management, and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands.
- The ICID By-laws have been enacted its International Executive Council for the due implementation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Commission. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ICID has been involved in the global discussions leading to Agenda 21, World Water Vision, World Water Forums etc., which have become the focal point of several of its technical activities.
- In recognition of its significant contribution to the programs and objectives of International Year of Peace proclaimed by the UN General Assembly, on 15 September 1987 ICID was designated as a Peace Messenger by the UN Secretary General.

## **33. 'Pondicherry shark'**

### **Context:**

Researchers recently spotted 'Pondicherry shark', an endangered species protected under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, in the East Godavari River Estuarine Ecosystem region.

- Scientifically known as *Carcharhinus hemiodon*, it belongs to the Carcharhinidae family with a growth of 3.3 feet.
- Known as 'Pala Sora' in the local parlance, the Pondicherry Shark is on the verge of extinction even according to the conventional fishermen.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Pondicherry shark as Critically Endangered.
- The shark is among the 25 "most wanted lost" species that are the focus of Global Wildlife Conservation's "Search for Lost Species" initiative.



### **34. UN sees 70% chance of El Nino event this year**

#### **Context:**

The World Meteorological Organisation forecast “a 70% chance of an El Nino developing by the end of this year.” The warming phase of ENSO is called El Nino.

- The organisation sees increased odds of higher surface temperatures in most of Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America, Africa and along much of South America’s coastline. Interior parts of South America, Greenland, many south Pacific islands and some in the Caribbean were identified as possible exceptions.

#### **About ENSO:**

- ENSO is nothing but El Nino Southern Oscillation. As the name suggests, it is an irregular periodic variation of wind and sea surface temperature that occurs over the tropical eastern Pacific Ocean. ENSO affects the tropics (the regions surrounding the equator) and the subtropics (the regions adjacent to or bordering the tropics). The warming phase of ENSO is called El Nino, while the cooling phase is known as La Nina.

#### **About El Nino:**

- El Nino is a climatic cycle characterized by high air pressure in the Western Pacific and low air pressure in the eastern. In normal conditions, strong trade winds travel from east to west across the tropical Pacific, pushing the warm surface waters towards the western Pacific. The surface temperature could witness an increase of 8 degrees Celsius in Asian waters. At the same time, cooler waters rise up towards the surface in the eastern Pacific on the coasts of Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. This process called upwelling aids in the development of a rich ecosystem.

#### **What causes El Nino?**

- El Nino sets in when there is anomaly in the pattern. The westward-blowing trade winds weaken along the Equator and due to changes in air pressure, the surface water moves eastwards to the coast of northern South America. The central and eastern Pacific regions warm up for over six months and result in an El Nino condition. The temperature of the water could rise up to 10 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. Warmer surface waters increase precipitation and bring above-normal rainfall in South America, and droughts to Indonesia and Australia.

#### **What are El Nino’s effects?**

- El Nino affects global weather. It favours eastern Pacific hurricanes and tropical storms. Record and unusual rainfall in Peru, Chile and Ecuador are linked to the climate pattern.

- El Nino reduces upwelling of cold water, decreasing the uplift of nutrients from the bottom of the ocean. This affects marine life and sea birds. The fishing industry is also affected.
- Drought caused by El Nino can be widespread, affecting southern Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands. Countries dependent on agriculture are affected.
- Australia and Southeast Asia get hotter.
- A recent WHO report on the health consequences of El Nino forecasts a rise in vector-borne diseases, including those spread by mosquitoes, in Central and South America. Cycles of malaria in India are also linked to El Nino.

### Why is it a concern?

- The rise in sea surface temperature may be intensified by global warming. From the current study, we learn that El Nino can exacerbate global warming and hence the process could become a vicious circle.

### What is La Nina?

- La Nina is a climate pattern that describes the cooling of surface ocean waters along the tropical west coast of South America. It is considered to have the opposite effect of El Nino. It brings greater than normal rainfall in Southeast Asia and Australia, and causes drier-than-normal conditions in South America and the Gulf Coast of the United States. La Nina events sometimes follow El Nino events.

### How long does it last?

- An El Nino or La Nina episode lasts nine to 12 months. Some may prolong for years. Its average frequency is every 2 to 7 years. El Nino is more frequent than La Nina.

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## Science and Technology

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

#### Context:


India's first missile tracking ship built by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials by the first week of October. Once ready, it will be India's first, a force multiplier and cruise the country into a global elite club

### Making waves

- The ship will be equipped with a modern e-intelligence network
- It will be propelled by two 9,000 KW diesel engines
- 14 MW power is needed to activate the tracking radars
- The ship can move at an average speed of 21 knots

■ Since its inception, Hindustan shipyard has built 179 ships and repaired around 1,953 vessels. Of them, 22 ships were built for the defence sector

India's first missile tracking ship will begin trials in October. A look at the features of the vessel



**Eye in the sea:** The ship, referred to as 'VC 11184', will be named after its induction into the Navy. ■ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

#### Key facts:

- It is built for the National Technical Research Organization, the technical intelligence agency working directly under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Adviser.
- This will be the first of its kind ocean surveillance ship being built as part of the efforts under the NDA government to strengthen the country's strategic weapons programme.
- 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 helicopter landing.
- 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 helicopter landing.

#### Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL):

- HSL, set up in 1941, achieved a total income of ₹ 651.67 crore and a value of production of ₹ 644.78 crore during 2017-18, the highest since inception.



- It is poised to get orders for construction of five fleet support ships costing ' 9,000 crore and finalise request for proposal for design collaborator for construction of two Special Operation Vessels called mini submarines.
- It is also banking on the order for medium refit of Russia-made third Sindhughosh class submarine INS Sindhuratna for which it has submitted technical bids.
- Visakhapatnam is considered a strategic location on the East Coast for the Indian defence forces as it is home for Ship Building Centre to build nuclear powered submarine INS Arihant class, Naval Alternate Operational Base at Rambilli, the second naval base after Eastern Naval Command headquarters, training centre for Marine Commandos and headquarters of the submarine arm.

### **36. NASA's Dawn spacecraft to run out of fuel remain in dwarf planet Ceres's orbit:**

#### **Context:**

After 11 years of gathering breathtaking imagery, and performing unprecedented feats of spacecraft engineering, Dawn – NASA's space probe for the asteroid belt – is drawing to a close due to lack of a key fuel

#### **Key facts:**

- Dawn was majorly tasked to study two of the three known protoplanets of the asteroid belt Vesta and Ceres, which when combined, make up 45 percent of the mass of the main asteroid belt, Launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in September 2007.
- The spacecraft is likely to run out of a fuel known as hydrazine, which keeps it oriented and in communication with Earth between September and October.
- Not only did this spacecraft unlock scientific secrets at these two small but significant worlds, it was also the first spacecraft to visit and orbit two extraterrestrial destinations during its mission.
- From 2011 to 2012, the spacecraft swept over Vesta, capturing imago craters, canyons and even mountains of this planet-like world.
- In 2015, Dawn's cameras spotted a cryovolcano and mysterious bright spots on Ceres, which scientists later found might be salt deposits produced by the exposure of briny liquid from Ceres' interior.
- It has continued to gather high-resolution images, gamma ray and neutron spectra, infrared spectra and gravity data at Ceres.
- Nearly once a day, Dawn will swoop over Ceres about 35 kilometers from its surface only about three times the altitude of a passenger jet gathering valuable data until it expends the last of the hydrazine that feeds thrusters controlling its orientation.

## **In a first in Asia, Bengaluru airport set to use face recognition as 'boarding pass'**

### **Context:**

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru is set to become the first airport in Asia next year to use face recognition as the boarding procedure for passengers to board flights and move across different sections of the airport.

- This is the first end-to-end face recognition-based walk through experience in Asia and the largest in the world.
- The project will be implemented by Vision Box, a Portuguese software firm.
- The goal of the programme is to simplify the journey by making it paperless from registration to boarding. Biometric technology will identify passengers by their face as they move across the airport, avoiding stops and the repeated presentation of boarding passes, passports or other physical identity documents.

## **37. NASA's Orion spacecraft**

### **Context:**

NASA has successfully completed the final test to qualify Orion's space capsule's parachute system for flights with astronauts, ahead of its mission to send humans to the Moon and beyond.

### **Details:**

The parachute system is the only system that must assemble itself in mid-air and must be able to keep the crew safe in several failure scenarios, such as mortar failures that prevent a single parachute type to deploy, or conditions that cause some of the parachute textile components to fail.

### **About Orion:**

NASA's Orion spacecraft is built to take humans farther than they've ever gone before. Orion will serve as the exploration vehicle that will carry the crew to space, provide emergency abort capability, sustain the crew during the space travel, and provide safe re-entry from deep space return velocities. Orion will launch on NASA's new heavy-lift rocket, the Space Launch System.

Orion will first fly with astronauts aboard during Exploration Mission-2, a mission that will venture near the Moon and farther from Earth than ever before, launching atop NASA's Space Launch System rocket — which will be the world's most powerful rocket.



## Miscellaneous

### 38. Khirki Mosque

#### In News:

The Archaeological Survey of India (Delhi Circle) of Ministry of Culture has discovered a hoard of 254 Copper Coins in the premises of Khirki Mosque during the course of conservation of the monument.

#### Details:

This mosque lies on the southern periphery of the village Khirki. The mosque was built by Khan-i-Jahan Junan Shah, the Prime Minister of Firoz Shah Tughluq (1351-88), and is believed to be one of the seven mosques built by him.

WEEKEND BATCH

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## Abhyasa Program Structure

	Multiple Choice Questions (PRELIMS)	Descriptive Questions (MAINS)	Total Marks
<b>Daily Test</b>	<b>10</b> (10*1 = 10 marks)	<b>1</b> (1*10= 10 Marks)	<b>20</b>
<b>Weekly Test</b>	<b>20</b> (20*1 = 20 marks)	<b>2</b> (2*10= 20 Marks)	<b>40</b>
<b>Fortnightly Test</b>	<b>30</b> (30*1 = 30 marks)	<b>3</b> (3*10= 30 Marks)	<b>60</b>
<b>Monthly Test</b>	<b>50</b> (50*1 = 50 marks)	<b>5</b> (5*10= 50 Marks)	<b>100</b>
<b>3 Months Test</b>	<b>100</b> (100*1 = 100 marks)	<b>10</b> (10*10= 100 Marks)	<b>200</b>
<b>Total Questions</b>	<b>4250+</b>	<b>500+</b>	



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83



**Srivastava**  
HT No : 29379

100



**Mourya**  
HT No : 255748

105



**Mishra**  
HT No : 262146

144



149



187



295



296



360



412



417



474



480



548



614



673



713



726



758



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828



832



872



886

