ANALOG IAS
INSTITUTE

samiksha
Comprehensive NEWS Analysis

28-01-2019
To
03-02-2019
FEBRUARY
Week - 01

OUR TEAM

GENERAL STUDIES

Mr. R. C. SINHA

Mr. D.M.RAVI KUMAR

Mr. SAROJ SAMAL

Mr. TARIQUE KHAN

Mr. PRIYESH SINGH SENGAR

Mr. SATYANARAYANA

Mr. SANJAY BHARADWAJ

Dr. ATUL TRIPATHI

Mr. KOUSHIK	Mr. PRANAY AGARWAL
Mr. CHETAN PRAKASH	Mr. NIKHIL SAREEN
Mr. RAVI TEJA	Mr. UDAY SIMHA
Mr. SIVA KUMAR	Mr. VIJAY

OPTIONALS

SOCIOLOGY
Mr. SAROJ SAMAL

Public Administration

Mr. R.C. SINHA

Mr. D.M.RAVI KUMAR

MATHEMATICS
Mr. VINNAKOTA SRIKANTH

GEOGRAPHY
Mr. PRIYESH SINGH SENGAR

OTHER OPTIONALS

ANTHROPOLOGY	POLITICAL SCIENCE
TELUGU LITERATURE	HISTORY

Contents

Topic	Page No

Science and Technology   37 - 41

Miscellaneous   42 - 45

Polity and Governance

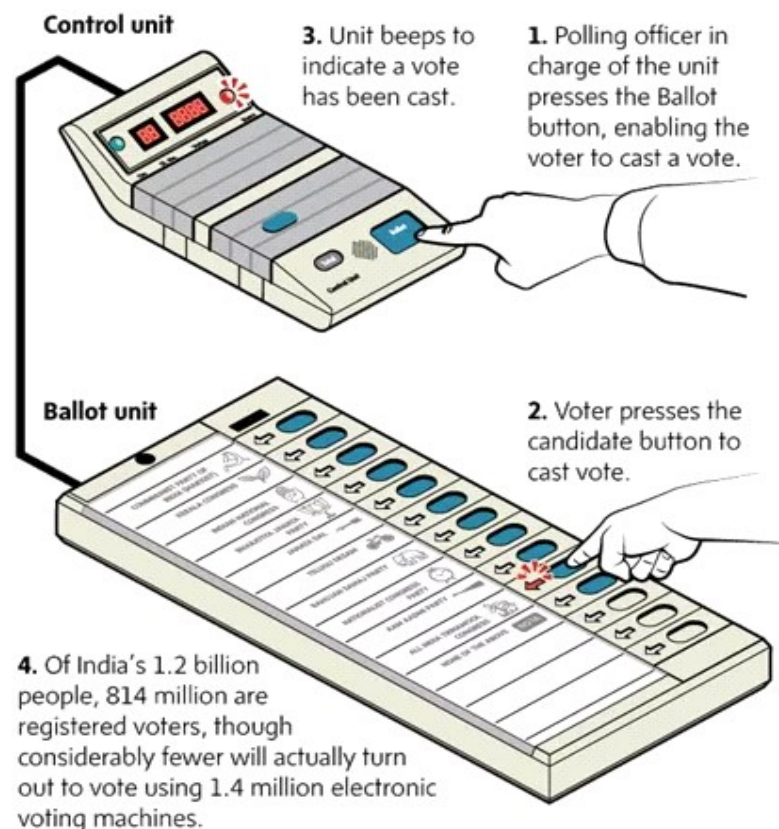## 1. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in India – Is it Tamper Proof?

There are two interesting discussions regarding the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) controversy in India. First, since its inception, every major political party has questioned the authenticity and efficacy of the machine. Secondly, the instrument often works as the bone of contention between the winning and the losing party, with the winning party always defending the indispensability of the machine to the democratic process and the losing alleging that the EVMs were tampered with.

However, this time, unlike the earlier developments, a US-based hacker or so called cyber expert has claimed that EVMs in India can be easily manipulated. This has added fuel to the already existing fire of controversy on the issue.

What are Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and how does it work?

THE ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE

Control unit

3. Unit beeps to indicate a vote has been cast.

1. Polling officer in charge of the unit presses the Ballot button, enabling the voter to cast a vote.

Ballot unit

2. Voter presses the candidate button to cast vote.

4. Of India's 1.2 billion people, 814 million are registered voters, though considerably fewer will actually turn out to vote using 1.4 million electronic voting machines.

- EVMs are electronic voting machines which provide the voter with a button for each choice and it is linked by a cable to an electronic ballot box.

- It comprises of 2 units – control unit and balloting unit– which are connected by a 5-meter cable.

- The control unit is with the polling oÀÛwÜicer appointed by the Election Commission and the Balloting Unit is in the voting compartment into which the voter enters to cast his/her vote in secret by pressing the button against the name and symbol of the candidate of his/her choice.

- The EVM is powered by a 6-volt single alkaline battery fitted in the control unit, and can even be utilized in areas that have no electricity.

What is the history of EVMs in India?

- In 1980, M. B. Haneefa invented the 1st Indian voting machine, gazeted "Electronically operated vote the counting machine".

- The EVMs were launched in 1989 by Election Commission of India working jointly with Electronics Corporation of India Limited.
- EVMs' industrial designers were faculties at the Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay.
- The EVMs were first utilised in 1982 in the by-election to North Paravur Assembly Constituency in Kerala for a certain number of polling stations.
- In 1998, EVMs were used on an experimental basis in 16 Assembly Constituencies in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan as well as NCT of Delhi.
- In the 2004 Lok Sabha election, the whole country voted using EVMs.
- The new generation of EVM was developed in 2011 with a feature for Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT).
- EC is planning to introduce EVMs equipped with VVPAT machines for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

What are the advantages of Electronic Voting Machine?

- The major problems of paper ballots are their printing, storage, and transportation which involve huge expenditure, lakhs of ballot boxes needed for each election and logistics problems with their safe storage between elections.
- Using EVMs mean doing away with paper ballots thus saving paper and hence trees.
- It eliminates the possibility of invalid and doubtful votes which were the root causes for many election petitions.
- It makes the voting process very simple and easy.
- They are cost-effective in the long run.
- EVMs don't need electricity and powered by batteries.
- EVMs are lighter and portable when compared to huge ballot boxes.
- EVMs have made the vote counting process much faster, delivering results in hours when compared to manual counting of votes.
- Hacking of EVMs is not possible since these have no internet connection.

What are the concerns regarding Electronic Voting Machines?

- On transparency & verifiability – EVMs are neither transparent nor verifiable.
- The voter cannot see her vote being recorded and also the recorded vote cannot be verified whether it was recorded correctly.
- The only thing that is verifiable is the total number of casted votes and not the choice expressed in each vote.
- An electronic display of the voter's selection may not be similar to the vote electronically stored in the machine's memory.

- To resolve this, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) was introduced.

About VVPATs:

- VVPAT is a slip generated in a printer-like machine attached to EVM and shows voter's choice of candidate as well as the party.
- Generated slip is displayed for a few seconds to the voter to verify before it falls into a sealed dropbox which can be opened during counting.

Advantages:

- Initially, election results are announced based on the recording of votes given by EVMs.
- If the election results are disputed, then the votes recorded under VVPATs shall be counted and announced.
- If there is any mismatch between the two results, then the VVPAT's result will prevail over the EVMs.

Disadvantages:

- However, VVPATs address only the issues at the voting part and the counting part still stays an opaque operation.
- Furthermore, currently, the EC's VVPAT auditing is limited to one randomly selected polling booth per constituency. But, this sample size will not detect faulty EVMs 98-99 percent of the time.
- VVPATs can be an effective deterrent to fraud, but, the detection of even one faulty EVM in a constituency is followed by the VVPAT auditing of all the EVMs (at all booths) in that constituency = poses a serious logistical challenge and hence VVPATs are not the solution to counting level failures.

On secrecy –

- With the paper ballot, the EC could mix ballot papers from various booths before counting = voting preferences could not be linked to the concerned locality.
- But, the votes cast through EVMs are counted based on individual booth = enables one to identify voting patterns and this renders marginalized communities vulnerable to pressure and harassments by party members.
- As a remedy to this problem, a totaliser machine was proposed.
- The totaliser machine enables votes from 14 booths to be counted together = voters are saved from pre-poll intimidation and post-poll harassment.
- However, the EC has shown no interest in adopting them at the national level.

On reliability –

- The recent track record of EVMs highlights that the number of malfunctions in a national election will be high.

- Moreover, a US-based person recently made sensational but unsubstantiated claims regarding Electronic Voting Machines (EVMS) that are used in Indian elections. The man, who claimed to have been involved in designing the EVMs are used in India, claimed that the 2014 Lok Sabha elections were rigged. The man addressed a press conference in London where he claimed that many political parties in India were aware of how EVMs could be hacked.

- However, the man did not offer much in the way of evidence or proof to back his claims. So ECI rejected those outlandish claims.

What is the international scenario?

- Germany ended electronic voting in 2009 due to the fact that this system lacked transparency. The court also declared that electronic voting is unconstitutional.

- The Netherlands banned EVMs in 2007 after an anti-EVM group showcased how the machines could be tampered within 5 minutes without anybody noticing the fraud.

- In the United States, the paper trail is mandatory for states that use electronic voting.

- England and France have never used EVMs.

- Italy felt that the e-voting results could have tampered.

- Ireland scrapped EVMs after spending 51 million pounds researching them for over three years.

What is the Election Commission's response to criticisms?

- In 2009, ECI invited skeptics to showcase the alleged fallibility of EVMs, utilizing 100 randomly procured machines from 10 states. The result was that none of the persons who were provided chance could demonstrate that ECI-EVM could have tampered in any of the 100 machines put on display.

- ECI mentioned that EVMs can neither be reprogrammed nor controlled by the external device. The source code is designed in such a way that it enables the voter to cast the vote only once. The next vote can be recorded only after the Presiding Officer enables the ballot on the Control Unit. In between, the machine becomes dead to any signal from outside.

- ECI also said that the comparison between EVMs in India and abroad, where they have failed, are both misplaced and misguided. This is due to the fact that most of the systems used in other nations are PC based and running on the operating system. So they are vulnerable to hacking.

- However, EVMs in India are the standalone machines without being linked to any input. The software in the chip is one time programmable and is burnt into the chip at the time of manufacture. Nothing can be written on the chip after manufacture. Hence there is a fundamental difference between EVMs in India and abroad.

- Thus the Election Commission does not find any merit in such allegations and reject all such allegations and suspicions raised by some political parties.

- Therefore, ECI has ensured all citizens that ECI-EVM is tamper proof and fully responsive to the integrity of the electoral process using EVMs.

- Furthermore, if EVMs are supplemented with VVPATs and Totaliser machines, it will go a long way in ensuring the fair and transparent elections in the country.

2.   Lokpal Issue

Recently, the Supreme Court gave the Lokpal search committee time till Februaryend for shortlisting a panel of names of chairperson and members of the Lokpal.

The court has for the past several months been constantly urging the government to complete the Lokpal appointment. However, the legal technicalities and lack of political will led to the delay in the appointment of Lokpal.

Why India needs Lokpal so badly?

- India is recognized as a promising economy and expected to become an economic giant. Within a short span of time, India has become the most sought after country among investors across the world. Though India's economy is booming, there is one major problem which is holding back all the progress and foreign investment. This is CORRUPTION.

- Even though corruption is there in every other country, the way it is working and penetrating in our system cannot be seen elsewhere. Due to this, investors are now less interested in making investments since corruption causes unnecessary delay and raise the overall cost of doing business in the country.

What is the history of corruption in India?

- Weak system and outdated laws led to corruption. With not so effective system in the past, the problem grew like anything in recent years.

- 'License Raj', a period between 1947-1990 was the time when government intervention in private business was very high.

- According to the 1951 Industries Act, it is mandatory for all the industrial units to get licenses from the central government for business.

- Then the powers were transferred to state with the 1956 Industrial Policy Resolution. This developed a duplicate system and doing business in India turned out to be very complicated.
- The power was in the hands of government so government officials started taking the bribe.
- Also, the lack of transparency in the system further aggravated the corruption.
- In 1991 economic liberalization took place that had attracted many foreign investors and investments. But corruption affected their interest in doing business.

What are the current mechanisms against corruption in India?

Currently, there are 2 major reforms which are working against corruption in India.

These are – the Prevention of Corruption Act in 1988 (amending the 1947 law) and the Right to Information Act (RTI) in 2005.

The Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA)

- This was the 1st major anti-corruption law that was originally passed in 1947.
- Violations under the PCA are handled by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) established in 1964.
- PCA was amended in 1988 to prevent corruption.
- Criminal liability got attached to the 1988 PCA.
- According to section 7 of this Act, any public official taking gratification other than legal remuneration as a motive or reward for doing anything is a crime.
- The main drawback of the Prevention of Corruption Act is that the punishments under it rarely happened.
- The Act is numb on the issues related to foreign corruption. So Indian citizens or corporation doing frauds in the international transaction cannot be penalized under this Act.

The Right to Information Act 2005

- With the Right to Information Act, 2005 common people of India have been given the fundamental right to retrieve information with respect to the functioning of the government from the public authorities without giving a reason for the inquiry.
- The RTI is applicable in all the states except for Jammu and Kashmir because of political conflicts and it encompasses all the government bodies from central, state to local bodies as well as NGOs.
- For effective functioning, public information fficers (PIOs) are appointed to receive applications for information at sub-divisional or sub-district level. Within 3 days PIO needs to respond.

- In case no information is provided then the citizen has complete right to appeal to a senior authority and the second appeal can be made to the Central Information Commission.
- The offcer can be penalized for not providing the information if not falling under any rule of exception.

But this system has its own flaws:

- Firstly, right to obtain information has been given to a common citizen and getting information depends upon his will. It is possible that he might not be interested in this. Moreover, he has no power, confidence and knowledge of the legalities involve which certainly make this system weak.
- Secondly, the RTI has several exceptions making the Act ineffective in many cases.
- Thirdly the whistleblower gets no protection under the RTI. So no one dares to fight against powerful people. The whistleblower must feel safe and must be statutorily protected.

Since 2005 when the Act was made law no major scandal or corruption has been uncovered.

What are the salient features of Lokpal?

Purpose: It is a government institution that will inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries such as Union Ministers (PM & Council of Ministers) and MPs under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.

Constitution: It is constituted under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013 which provides for Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states.

Exemptions:

- PM with respect to functions such as National Security and Maintenance of public order.
- SC judges.
- Election Commission.
- All entities receiving donations from foreign sources in the context of FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) below Rs 10 lakh per year.

Composition:

- It comprises of a chairperson and up to 8 members.
- The chairperson and at least half of the members have to be current or former judges of the SC or Chief Justices of the HCs.
- The other members should have to be at least 25 years' experience with respect to anti-corruption policy, vigilance, public administration, finance, and management.

Term: 5 years

Appointment:

- Lokpal can be appointed by President on the recommendation of Select Committee consists of Vice President (Chairperson), PM, Lok Sabha Speaker, Home Minister, Leader of the House, Leader of Opposition (LS) and Leader of Opposition (RS).
- The select committee has to choose members from the list of persons recommended by the Search committee consists of 8 members who are appointed by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Removal:

Lokpal members can be removed by President after the inquiry by a committee consists of CJI and 2 senior most SC judges.

Power with respect to CBI: Lokpal will have the power of superintendence and direction over any investigation agency including CBI for cases referred to them by Lokpal. Transfer of CBI officers who are investigating cases referred by Lokpal can be done only with the approval of Lokpal.

Attachment of Property: Lokpal can attach and confiscate property acquired by corrupt means even while the prosecution is pending.

How Lokpal is better than current Anti-corruption mechanism?

- Demand for Lokpal has mounted as people are fed up with the current system against corruption. Despite all those reforms such as PCA and RTI, corruption is still increasing in India and the common man's grievances are not heard properly. A further boost was given by Anna Hazare's fast.
- These grievances resulted in the need of an independent investigating agency which is not controlled by politicians or bureaucrats.
- Since our system has no independent framework to fight against corruption = no one is afraid of indulging in corruption. Several legal cases of corruption take 30-35 years. The answer to all this may be the appointment of Lokpal.
- All the corruption cases of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 will come under the jurisdiction of the Lokpal Act. Thus it has the function to inquire into allegations of corruption against public officials.
- The Lokpal will have its own autonomous machinery to inquire and investigate the corruption cases.
- As per the Act, a preliminary inquiry will be conducted within 30 days and completion of investigation must take place within 6 months although the extension of further six months can be given only after receiving a valid written reason. All the trials must be completed within a year that may extend to two years after providing a valid reason in writing.
- Unlike PCA, Lokpal does not require sanctions form the government to investigate cases against a public servant and this is one of the best parts.

- The Lokpal also has the power to search and seize documents and it can even recommend the suspension of the accused. Even if the prosecution is pending then also there is a provision to confiscate the property acquired by corrupt means.

- In the present system, Directorate of prosecution comes under law ministry but with the Lokpal, he will come under the control of CBI director. The Central Vigilance Commission will recommend the appointment of the director of the prosecution. Director of the prosecution will work for two years.

- The major advantage of the Lokpal is it's being independent as it is free from politicians, police officers, and bureaucrats. The entire system is quick so no delay in the results.

What are the concerns?

- The major point of concern is that all the cases of corruption in which high officials are involved go to the CBI. Lokpal is not going to completely control the administrative oÀÛwÜicers of the CBI who will investigate the corruption cases. This is regarded as the major drawback of Lokpal.

- No protection to the whistleblower.

- Five years of imprisonment for making a false complaint is arbitrary.

- Through an amendment in 2016, the government has done away with the statutory requirement of public disclosure of the assets of public servants' spouses and dependent children.

- The vesting of the power of prior sanction with Lokpal has been almost nullified with amendments in Prevention of Corruption Act which strengthen the requirement to seek the government's permission.

- Lokpal, being an administrative committee (part of the executive) = amounts to judiciary doing executive functions = violation of separation of power provided under the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

- Judiciary is totally excluded from the ambit of Lokpal.

- Delay in the appointment of Lokpal due to the legal technicalities and lack of political will.

Why is there a delay in the appointment?

- Even though the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act of 2013 passed in 2014 itself, the Act was not implemented all these years since there was no Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the 16 Lok Sabha = delay. Note: LoP is a member of the select committee to appoint Lokpal.

- But the Supreme Court on April 2018, clarified that the Lokpal appointment process need not be stalled merely due to the absence of the LoP SC cited the sub-section (2) of the 2013 Act which makes it clear that an appointment of the chairperson or members of Lokpal will not be invalidated merely because of one of the members of the selection committee is missing.

- The SC maintained that the available members of the Lokpal Selection committee could be enough to recommend suitable persons to the President for the Lokpal appointment.

- In short, the Lokpal Act 2013 is a workable piece of legislation according to the Supreme Court.

- Moreover, the Parliamentary Standing Committee submitted its report in

- December 2015 which supports the amendment to replace the LoP with the single largest opposition party leader in Lok Sabha? However, this amendment is yet to be passed in the Parliament = delay.

- Also, setting up the Search Committee needs some groundwork since its members are drawn from different fields like the anti-corruption policy, public administration, law, banking, and insurance + half its members need to be women, backward class, minority and SC/ST candidates = delay.

- The government's stand is that it only has a limited role with respect to the search committee.

- The government says that a search committee was already established in September 2018.

- However, the Search committee devises its own procedure for shortlisting suitable names for the selection.

- It further says that the central government can only provide such assistance as may be required by the search committee and that the search committee has not yet conveyed any date for its meeting = delay.

- However, even after the Search committee was formed, it has been handicapped due to the lack of office space, manpower, infrastructure and a secretariat = delay. Thus, the Supreme Court has asked the government to provide the necessary infrastructure for the search committee to convey its meetings and function properly.

Way forward:

- It is true that the appointment of Lokpal requires a lot of groundwork regarding Selection and Search committee. However, it is the government duty to speed up this process and not mentioning it as a reason for delay by providing the required infrastructure.

- Recently, for the appointment to other posts such as CBI director and Central Vigilance Commissioner, a simple amendment was made to treat the leader of the single largest opposition party as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP). A similaramendment should also be made in the case of the selection committee to expedite the process of the formation of Lokpal, prevent corruption and improve governance in India.

- There are some flaws which need to be addressed like no protection to the whistleblower and five years of imprisonment for making a false complaint and government control through CBI.
- Every sector needs to be audited by Lokpal.
- The desired change can be brought by completely freeing the Lokpal and its investigating agencies.
- The Lokpal in isolation cannot work successfully. So along with this, the Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011 (Citizens Charter Bill), Whistleblowers Protection Bill and Judicial Accountability Bill should have been passed.
- Thus the Lokpal is indeed a great step but its eÀÛwÜective results are based on its effective implementation.

3. Curative Petition

Context:

The Supreme Court will hear in April **a curative petition** filed by the Centre seeking Rs 7,844 crore additional money from US-based Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), now owned by Dow Chemicals, to provide compensation to victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

The tragedy:

More than 3,500 people were killed instantly when poisonous gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal on the night of December 2-3, 1984. Thousands more have died over the years. Many more thousands have been maimed or suffer from serious health issues due to their exposure to the gas.

How did it happen?

There was a leakage in the water pipe and as result water entered into **methyl isocyanate (MIC)** tank. Also, refrigeration system was not working to cool MIC and prevent chemical reaction. Due to this, exothermic reaction took place releasing large amount of heat and the volume of gas increased and a cloud of gases phosgene, carbon monoxide and MIC started coming out. As it was very spontaneous and rapidly it spread and soon a very dense cloud was formed over the city of Bhopal exposing half a million people.

What is curative petition?

It is the last judicial resort available for redressal of grievances in court which is normally decided by judges in-chamber. It is only in rare cases that such petitions are given an open-court hearing.

The concept of curative petition was first evolved by the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and Anr. (2002) where the question was whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final judgement/order of the Supreme Court, after dismissal of a review petition.

The Supreme Court in the said case held that in order to prevent abuse of its process and to cure gross miscarriage of justice, it may reconsider its judgements in exercise of its inherent powers. For this purpose, the Court has devised what has been termed as a "curative" petition.

To entertain the curative petitions, the Supreme Court has laid down certain specific conditions:

1. The petitioner will have to establish that there was a genuine violation of principles of natural justice and fear of the bias of the judge and judgement that adversely affected him.

2. The petition shall state specifically that the grounds mentioned had been taken in the review petition and that it was dismissed by circulation.

3. The petition is to be sent to the three senior most judges and judges of the bench who passed the judgement affecting the petition, if available.

4. If the majority of the judges on the above bench agree that the matter needs hearing, then it would be sent to the same bench (as far as possible) and the court could impose "exemplary costs" to the petitioner if his plea lacks merit.

Article- 137 of the Constitution subjects to the provisions of the guidelines made under Article 145, by which it is clear that the Supreme Court has the ability to review any judgment declared by it.

4. Government to identify denotified nomadic tribes not classified as SC, ST or OBC

Why in news?

The Union government plans to institute an exercise to identify Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/ NT/ SNT) who were never classified as either Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), or Other Backward Classes (OBC)

Important facts

- As per the report prepared by the National Commission on DNT, NT, SNT (headed by Bhiku Ramji Idate,) over 260 extremely marginalised communities have never been identified or included in any of the reserved categories.

- This accounts for 35% of the DNT, 64% of NT, and 1% of SNT population

- Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have the largest number of DNT and NT communities respectively, that are not included in any list.

Initiatives taken: In accordance to the Balkrishna Renke Commission report, schemes for pre- and post-matric scholarships and construction of hostels were implemented for DNT students.

5. Chhattisgarh panel: Police reform panel suggests more leaves for co ps in Maoist areas

Why in news?

Neha Champawat committee recommendations on police reforms

- Police personnel and their families in Chhattisgarh had recently carried out street protests and demanded improvements in emoluments given to them.

- A five-member committee was formed by the new Chhattisgarh government, which has submitted its report to the DGP.

Recommendations of the Committee:

- **More leaves:** Officers on field posting should get at least "one leave per week", and police personnel in Maoist violence-affected areas should be eligible for eight days leave at a stretch every three months.

- **Medical counseling services:** In every range headquarters, a gynaecologist, a psychologist, and a physiotherapist should be made available for personnel at the government hospital two days each week and this should be extended to district headquarters eventually.

- **Raising women ratio in services:** Raising women constables and sub-inspectors in the police force from 9% to 30%. At every district headquarters there should be a women's transit mess/hostel, and at every police station there should be a women's toilet.

- **House Rent Allowance:** Increase in House Rent Allowance from the current 7% to 15% for police personnel posted in forward Maoist areas. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana HRA is as high as 30%.

- **Other allowances:** 10% risk allowance for those in forward areas and an increase in food and daily allowances, as well as a school in state capital Raipur for "talented" students of police personnel, and a police housing society developed by the Police Housing Corporation at the district level.

- **IT and legal support:** There should be an IT officer at every police station in the state, and a law officer should be attached with the office of the SP of each district.

6. Obesity, climate change and under-nutrition form a synergy of epidemics: Report

Why in news?

A Lancet Commission report says these three co-occur, interact with each other to produce complex sequelae and share common underlying societal drivers

Context:

- The report shows that the three "pandemics" are interplaying with each other and terms it as "global syndemic".

- A result of a three-year project led by the University of Auckland (New Zealand), the George Washington University (USA), and World Obesity Federation (UK), the new Lancet report is authored by 43 experts from 14 countries, including India. Stressing on the menace of obesity, the report states that in 2017, more than 38 million children younger than five years were either overweight or had obesity — 25 per cent and 46 per cent of these cases were in Africa and Asia.

- "In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), more and more children under the age of five are becoming overweight when stunting (28 per cent), wasting (8.8 per cent), and underweight (17.4 per cent) too are quite prevalent. The prevalence of obesity among stunted children is 3 per cent and is higher among children in middle-income countries than in lower-income countries," says the report.

Unhealthy impact of climate change

- Climate change too seems to be affecting these countries the most. "The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), three previous Lancet Commissions related to climate change and planetary health (2009–15), and the current Lancet Countdown, which is tracking progress on health and climate change from 2017 to 2030, have provided extensive and compelling projections on the major human health effects related to climate change.

- Chief among them are increasing food insecurity and under-nutrition among vulnerable populations in many LMICs due to crop failures, reduced food production, extreme weather events, increased food-borne and other infectious diseases and civil unrest," says the Lancet report.

- The report says economic burden of the global syndemic will have the greatest effect on the poorest of the 8.5 billion people who will inhabit the earth by 2030. "The current costs of obesity are estimated at about $2 trillion annually from direct healthcare costs and lost economic productivity. These costs represent 2.8 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP)... Economic losses attributable to under-nutrition are equivalent to 11 per cent of the GDP in Africa and Asia," the report says.

- The 2.3 billion farmers, forest-dependent people, herders and fishermen are threatened by climate variability and extreme weather. One of the most direct effects is on food availability for the rural poor, the report says.

Food's interaction with climate

- The reverse effect is also quite tangible as agriculture leads to climate change with foods becoming less healthy. "Research indicates that increased level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are reducing level of nutrients in wheat, barley, potatoes, and rice by 10-14 per cent and in soy by 1.4 per cent," the report points out.

- Also, agricultural practices, driven primarily by industry also contribute towards climate change. Agriculture directly contributes about 15-23 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions which is even comparable to transportation, thanks to the dependence on fertilisers.

- The report also lists other quirky effects. "Increasing ambient temperatures could contribute to obesity through reduction in physical activity. Additionally, the effect of climate change on fruit and vegetable production will make these products more expensive, and might prompt a shift towards processed food and beverages that are high in sugar, fats and sodium." What more? High prevalace of obesity will lead to increased consumption of fossil fuel as the dependence on various modes of transportation would see a spurt.

Common drivers

- The commission also identifies the common drivers of these three pandemics. Vested industrial interest, the report says, is the prime driver spurring homogeneity in production and consumption and also externalises harms to health. "One example of such multifold damage is agriculture's drive towards higher value products, such as processed and animal-source foods that consume great amounts of energy, generate methane and other waste products, and are heavily marketed and consumed in unhealthy quantities. Obesity is one result. Nutrient-deficiency malnutrition and climate change are others. The offence is more egregious for the half-trillion US dollars in subsidies paid to the agriculture sector every year, mostly providing cheap inputs to large food companies, and about $5 trillion in subsidies to fossil fuel companies," the report says.

- Terming the World Economic Forum as "the bully pulpit of business groups", the report calls upon institutions such as itself and the World Bank to "harness the power of economics using development assistance funding" to act upon solutions of the problem.

- The second most prominent driver is collective "policy inertia" as "no country has successfully reversed its epidemic because the systemic and institutional drivers of obesity remain largely unabated". Casting serious aspersions on politicians' decision making powers, the report says, "Member states met at successive World Health Assembly meetings over nearly three decades, but that has not translated into meaningful and measurable change. Such patchy progress is due to what the Commission calls policy inertia, a collective term for the combined effects of inadequate political leadership and governance to enact policies to response to the global syndemic."

- The report also rues the fact that just likes Paris Agreement on Climate Change; obesity has not generated enough public outrcry thus leading to inertia. For a solution, the report suggests double-duty or triple-duty actions. "A seemingly simple example shows how challenging these actions can be. National dietary guidelines serve as a basis for

the development of food and nutrition policies and public education to reduce obesity and under-nutrition and could be extended to include sustainability by moving populations towards consuming largely plant-based diets."

However, many countries' efforts to include environmental sustainability principles within their dietary guidelines failed due to pressure from strong food industry lobbies, especially the beef, dairy, sugar, and ultra-processed food and beverage industry sectors, the report rues with Sweden, Qatar, Brazil and Germany being the sole exceptions. Increasing public engagement with civil society organisations and diverse groups to trigger behavourial change, it says, is equally significant to address the syndemic.

International Relations

7.   India's soft power is very effective in Afghanistan

Why in news?

From an Afghan perspective, India's soft power is effective in Afghanistan and the Indian government doesn't need to have direct military involvement in the country.

Some Facts:

US President Donald Trump recently mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has promoted soft power policies in Afghanistan that benefit India and the US, about building a "library" and not doing enough to help stabilise the war-torn country. Some believe Trump mistook the Afghan parliament for a library, but whatever the intention, the perception was not welcomed by Afghans, Indians and US citizens. From an Afghan perspective, India's soft power is effective in Afghanistan and the Indian government doesn't need to have direct military involvement in the country.

There are three reasons for these conclusions:

1. Historic India-Afghanistan links;
2. A feeling of kinship due to Bollywood's popularity; and
3. India's support to rebuild Afghanistan

Historic India-Afghanistan links: Afghanistan and India have 1,000 years of historic relations. There are countless Afghan-related monuments and historic and cultural items across India like Qutub Minar has synthesis of Afghan design. Similarly, there are more than a dozen sites in Afghanistan with Indian artwork.

Bollywood link: India's film industry has nurtured a feeling of friendship among Afghans. Most TV and radio stations in Afghanistan play Indian songs as part of their routine programming.

India's support to rebuild Afghanistan: India is the largest regional donor to Afghanistan, having provided $3 billion. The new parliament building, Salma dam in Herat province, and a highway to Iran's Chabahar port, are a few prominent projects backed by India. India trains Afghan security forces and supplies modest quantities of defence gear.

Hence India has earned the respect of Afghan people by following the principle of non-interference through its soft power approach, ruling out the need for a direct military intervention.

8.   India is rather too cautious on the Quad

Malabar Exercise:

- India has once again decided to reject Australia's participation in the Malabar naval exercises.

- Malabar exercise is conducted between India, US and Japan. Japan became a permanent member of these exercises in 2015.

Quad Grouping:

- Quad is an informal security grouping comprising India, US, Japan and Australia.

- Although Japan, US and Australia highlight Quad as a counter to Chinese aggression in Indo-Pacific but India has refused to accept this strategy officially who considers Quad to be separate from Indo-Pacific Region.

- Post-Wuhan summit between India and China, India has given less attention to Quad in order to avoid antagonizing China.

- Based on similar intentions, India has also downplayed suggestions from the US to elevate the Quad dialogue to foreign secretary level from the current setup of joint secretary level talks.

India's refusal to include Australia in Malabar:

- Quad was originated in 2007 by India, US, Japan and US but it was disbanded later when Australia decided to quit the group in 2008 considering its relations with China.

- India is not sure that the current tensions between Australia and China, based on which Australia seeks an entry into Malabar, will outlast for long and Australia may leave the group eventually.

- Inclusion of Australia into Malabar will turn Malabar Exercise into Quad naval exercise as all Quad members will be part of the exercise and this may invite Chinese antagonism.

Why India should include Australia into Malabar?

- China's sensitivities is a one-way street as Beijing doesn't respect New Delhi's sensitivities in return. Including Australia into Malabar exercise will send out a political message to China.

- Stronger Malabar will also send a much needed message to other countries in Southeast Asia which are afraid to confront China on their own.

- The idea of Quad owes itself to the 2004 Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Hence inclusion of Australia will add more vigour and capability of Malabar in attending to natural disasters in the region.

9.   The Regional great game

Why in news?

- Iran and Pakistan, which were trying to remain close, are today moving in opposite directions.

- This development is fueled by India's growing proximity to Iran and Saudi Arabia's to Pakistan.

India and Iran relations:

- In December 2018 India formally took over the operations of Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar, which is one of the gateways of India to Afghanistan.
- Last month, India, Iran and Afghanistan, held the first meeting for the implementation of the trilateral Chabahar agreement signed in 2016. They agreed on the routes for trade and transit corridors between the three countries.
- Amid US sanctions on Iran, Chabahar port was exempt by US for India because this port is vital for the ongoing support of Afghanistan's growth and humanitarian relief.
- India's importance for Iran has increased amid US sanctions as waiving of US sanctions made oil trade possible for Iran; and India and Iran could finalise the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) that would reduce tariffs on 80 to 100 products.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia relations:

- Pakistan has similarly been pushed towards Saudi Arabia by the compulsions of financial circumstances.
- Pakistan needs to raise money from abroad and it is being helped by Saudi Arabia and UAE through aid, industrial and strategic investments.
- Saudi Arabia decided to invest $10 billion in a refinery in Gwadar, Pakistan, to rule out any Iranian presence in Gwadar, as was being discussed by Iran and Pakistan.

Iran Pakistan efforts at rapprochement:

- Pakistan and Iran tried hard to ameliorate their collaboration till recently.
- Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff had paid an important visit to Tehran in October 2017, first time in 20 years and Iranians discussed cooperation on missile technology with Pakistan.
- Iran also expressed interest in being part of the BRI and mentioned for the first time resolution of Kashmir issue, comparing this conflict to the Israeli-Palestinian one, something which India disliked.

India had improved its relations with UAE and Saudi Arabia in last four years. India and Saudi Arabia signed five MoUs in 2018 regarding exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism financing and related crimes amid the spread of Islamic State and threats from groups in Af-Pak region. But Pakistan's growing closeness with Saudi Arabia may dilute India-Saudi Arabia plans of cooperation.

When US pulls out of Afghanistan the region will see influence of regional players growing in Afghanistan. Meanwhile amid fluid situation, the Iran-India and Pakistan-Saudi Arabia bipole can see further crystallization in this new regional game.

10. International Whaling Commission

Context: Japan has decided to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission to resume commercial whaling in 2019.

About IWC:

IWC is an international body set up under International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) which was signed in Washington DC on 1946.

Headquarters: Impington, near Cambridge, England.

In 1986, it adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling. This ban still continues.In 1994, it created the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary surrounding the continent of Antarctica. Here, the IWC has banned all types of commercial whaling.

Only two such sanctuaries have been designated by IWC till date. Another is Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary by the tiny island nation of the Seychelles.

The IWC meets annually and adopts regulations on catch limits, whaling methods and protected areas, on the basis of a three-quarters majority vote.

What is the issue?

Japan has decided to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission, which it's been a part of since 1951, to resume commercial whaling in 2019. However, it will continue to participate in talks as an observer. After the withdrawal comes into effect the Japan will conduct commercial whaling within Japan's territorial sea and its exclusive economic zone.

Exit from IWC doesn't mean Japan will be operating outside the law, as such, and the country will still conduct its hunts in accordance with international laws and limits calculated by the IWC.

Japan has justified its annual Antarctic whale hunt in the name of scientific research, which it says is necessary to evaluate global populations of whale species. However, that argument was rejected in 2014 by the International Court of Justice, which ruled that Japan's Antarctic hunt had no scientific basis.

Conclusion: The announcement drew criticisms: Australia said it was "extremely disappointed" and New Zealand said it regretted the resumption of the "outdated and unnecessary" commercial killing of the ocean mammals. Impact: By leaving the IWC, Japan is rejecting multilateralism and setting a very bad precedent for conservation, which will likely have very serious negative consequences for the world's whales. Japan may recruit other pro-whaling nations to leave the IWC.

11. India to participate in PISA 2021

Context:

The Union Human Resources Development Ministry has signed an agreement with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

(OECD) for India's Participation in Programme for International Student Assessment- PISA 2021.

The students will be selected by PISA through random sampling. The schools run by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and schools in the UT of Chandigarh would be participating.

Significance:

India's participation in PISA- 2021 would lead to recognition and acceptability of Indian students and prepare them for the global economy in the 21st century.

Background:

India had taken part in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009 and bagged the 72nd rank among 74 participating countries. Then UPA government had boycotted PISA, blaming "out of context" questions for India's dismal performance.

Later, the HRD Ministry, under the NDA-II government, revisited this decision in 2016 and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) had set up a committee to review the matter and submitted its report in December 2016. The report recommended for participation in test in 2018. However, India missed the application deadline for the 2018 cycle.

About the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA):

- It is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
- First conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle. PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies, such as collaborative problem solving.
- By design, PISA emphasizes functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of compulsory schooling.
- PISA is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), an intergovernmental organization of industrialized countries, and is conducted in the United States by NCES. Data collection for the most recent assessment was completed in Fall 2015.
- In 2012 PISA test, schools of Shanghai in China topped reading, mathematics and science test, followed closely by Singapore. In 2015, Singapore, Japan and Estonia were ranked as top three countries, in that order.

12. U.S. declares it has agreed upon peace framework with Taliban

Context:

Currently US and Taliban are engaged in Doha rounds of talk for negotiation of peace agreement

Broad Contours of Framework for peace agreement between US and Taliban:

- Afghanistan should not be used as ground for terrorist attack on US and its allies
- Direct talk between Afghan Government and Taliban
- Comprehensive Ceasefire between Afghan Government and Taliban
- Settlement of post conflict political arrangements and nature of post conflict arrangements in Kabul
- Potential changes in constitution of Afghanistan
- Mechanisms for peaceful transition to new political order
- US withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan

Issues in US-Taliban Doha Talks:

- US says troops withdrawal depends on agreement on other issues and Taliban says no progress on other conditions till US withdraw its troops
- Against India's stand of any peace negotiation should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled
- Terms of cooperation and extent of influence of Pakistan in ongoing talks

US objectives in Afghanistan:

According to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, US objectives are:

- to bring peace in Afghanistan
- prevent the nation from re-emerging as a haven for terrorists
- bring the American forces back home after 17 long years in Afghanistan.

US wants to "strengthen Afghan sovereignty, independence and prosperity"

Challenges before Zalmay Khalilzad US special representative:

- US President losing patience with Taliban long steadily growing war. US President under consideration to significantly reduce number of troops from current of 14000 troops
- Taliban's double game of fighting with Afghan security forces and at same time negotiating peace agreement with US Before Doha talk deadly attack in Wardak killing more than hundred afghan security forces
- Pakistan geography makes Pakistan critical for either war or peace in Afghanistan and Pakistan's double game of providing military troops for fighting Taliban and at same time support to Taliban

India's Afghanistan policy:

- India advocate any peace negotiation should be afghan-led, afghan-owned and afghan-controlled

- India has earned strong goodwill among all Afghanistan ethnic groups due to development aid of $3bn which includes mainly social infrastructure projects

Way Forwards:

Peace Agreement should be quick but with prudence (Afghan President Ashraf Ghani) According to Rand Corporation-US based security think tank, final agreements should have following elements:

- An 18-month transitional government that will oversee power sharing between Afghan government and Taliban

- Extension of US assistance to Afghanistan; Amnesty

- Creation of a high Ulema council which along with the interim government would discuss changes to the Constitution

Taliban's renunciation of links with terrorist organizations

- Release of prisoners and formation of an impartial team to implement the draft deal

- India need strong and active diplomacy engagement with Afghanistan both officially and non- officially and should be strong partner in any peace negotiations and in developmental process

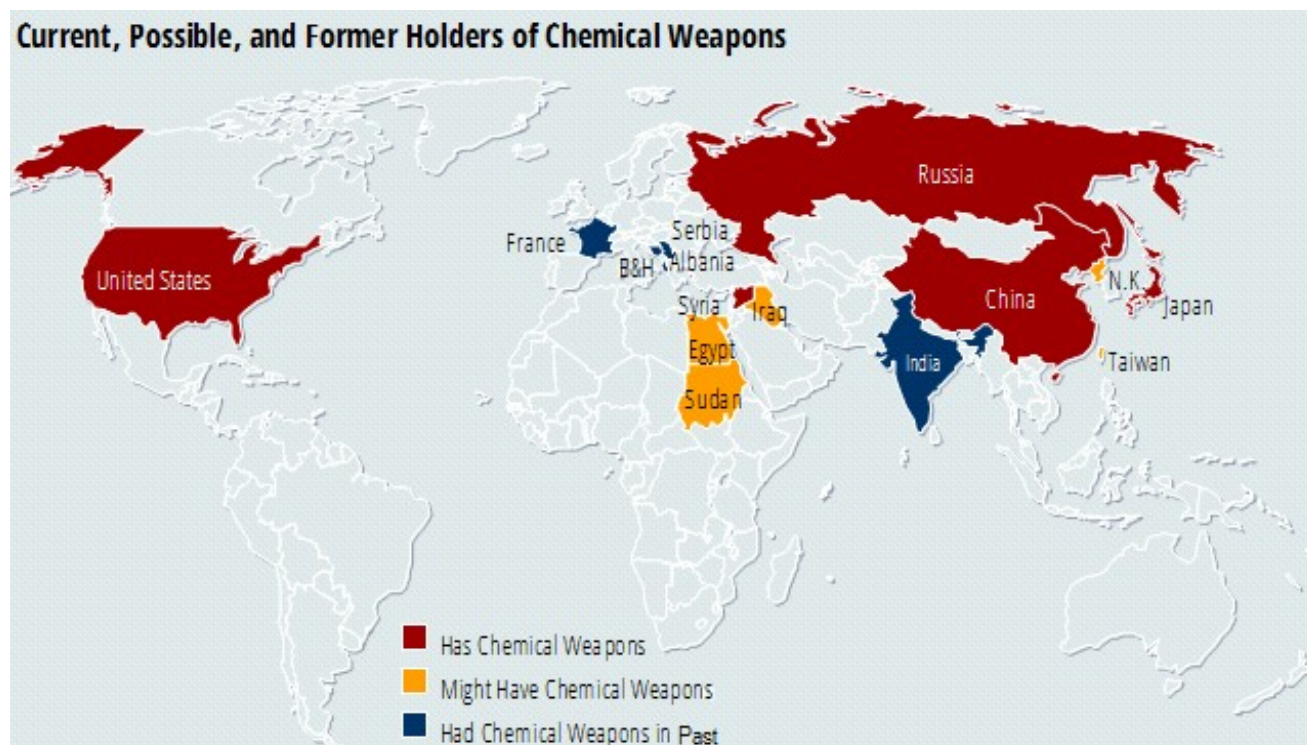# 13. India's contribution in Global Disarmament

Nuclear disarmament

India is a peace-loving nation. It achieved independence from centuries-old British colonial rule through peaceful non-violent movements. India has a long tradition of peace and apathy towards the war of any kind. Asoka the Great renounced the use of the weapon and abandoned the principles of war. This is one of the earliest examples of disarmament.

- In 1954 India took the initiative to ban nuclear tests. India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru proposed at the U.N. a standstill agreement in respect of the atomic tests

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was concluded in 1967, kept open for signature in 1968 and was promulgated in 1970 for a period of 25 years. The NPT has It been extended unconditionally and indefinitely by its Review and Extension Conference held in New York from 17th April to 12th May 1995. India objected to such a treaty calling it discriminatory.

- India has categorically declared that it will not sign the Treaty in its present form because its indefinite extension only serves to perpetuate its discriminatory aspects which have created a division between the nuclear "haves" and "have nots".

- The concept of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was mentioned in the NPT. The CTBT has been planned to realize the objective of general and complete nuclear disarmament. The CTBT in present form,

however, is not intended to make the weapon free world free from nuclear weapons. After the CTBT was ratified in 1996, negotiations on another treaty to cut off fissile material production have started in January 1997.

- The proposed Fissile Material production Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) seeks to put a cut-off point in the sphere of fissile material production. India has refused to be a party in the FMCT. It has opposed the treaty on the same grounds that India put forward while opposing the NPT and the CTBT.

- In 1974 India called for a total prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as any such use would be a violation of the Charter of the UN and a crime against humanity.

- In 1982 India proposed the following concrete programme of action:

(i) The Special Session on Disarmament should consider a binding convention on non-use of nuclear weapons;

(ii) as a first step towards eventual cutting of existing stockpiles, a freeze on nuclear weapons and a total stoppage of further production;

(iii) immediate suspension of all nuclear tests;

(iv) negotiations for achieving a Treaty on General and Complete Disarmament within an agreed time frame;

(v) UN to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear warfare.

- In 1984 India along with Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, and Tanzania launched a Five continents Six-Nation Peace Initiative. This five continent initiative called on the nuclear weapon states to halt the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons and seek arms reduction leading to complete disarmament.

The Countries Holding The World's Nuclear Arsenal

Estimated global nuclear warhead inventories as of December 2017

Country	Warheads
Russia*	6,800
USA*	6,600
France	300
China	270
UK	215
Pakistan**	140
India**	130
Israel	80
North Korea**	20

* Includes retired warheads that are still intact. Russia = 2,500; USA = 2,600
** Upper estimates

Source: Federation of American Scientists

statista | The Statistics Portal
Visit www.statista.com

Current, Possible, and Former Holders of Chemical Weapons

- India is a signatory or party to the Geneva Protocol of 1925; the Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963; Outer Space Treaty of 1967; the Sea Bed Treaty of 1971; the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972; the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993.

- India's approach towards any multilateral disarmament agreement stems from the basic consideration that only equal and non-discriminatory treaties make peace and relaxation of tension and will help to advance towards the goal of disarmament.

Nuclear disarmamentNuclear disarmament

- After the end of World War II, the world got involved into an armed race of producing nuclear weapons. To slow this malicious race, many arm control treaties such as SALT-1, SALT-2, LTBT, START-1, and START-2 were proposed and signed by several nations across the globe. Among such treaties was the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – arguably most pivotal, global, and influential among all the mechanisms for international disarmament and nuclear non – proliferation.

- The NPT was launched in 1958 by Frank Aiken, the then External affairs minister of Ireland. At the time the NPT was proposed there was a prediction that within the next two decades the world would have 25-30 nuclear weapon states. The NPT is based on a central bargain "The NPT non-nuclear states (states that did not possess nuclear weapons before 1968) agree never to acquire nuclear weapons and NPT nuclear states (states that possessed nuclear weapons before 1968) in exchange agrees to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology. The NPT consists of a Preamble and eleven articles.

- The NPT was opened for signature in 1968 and enforced in 1970. So far 190 countries have joined the treaty; Finland was the first country

to sign. The NPT recognizes five Nuclear Weapon states: USA, UK, USSR (Russia after the breakdown of the Soviet Union), France and China. Four UN member states never joined NPT: India, Pakistan, Israel, and South Sudan. North Korea accepted the treaty in 1985 but withdrew later in 2003.

- Over the years the NPT has come to be seen by many Third World states as "a conspiracy of the nuclear 'haves' to keep the nuclear 'have-nots' in their place". This argument has roots in Article VI of the treaty which "obligates the nuclear weapons states to liquidate their nuclear stockpiles and pursue complete disarmament. The non-nuclear states see no signs of this happening". Some argue that the NWS has not fully complied with their disarmament obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

- Some countries such as India have criticized the NPT, because it "discriminated against states not possessing nuclear weapons on January 1, 1967," while Iran and numerous Arab states have criticized Israel for not signing the NPT. There has been disappointment with the limited progress on nuclear disarmament, where the five authorized nuclear weapons states still have 22,000 warheads between them and have shown a reluctance to disarm further.

- India's stand is based on the argument that the NPT is the last vestige of the apartheid in the international system and a clear manifestation of the global division of power, granting as it does to five countries the right to be nuclear-weapons states while denying the same right to others. If nuclear weapons are evil – and India agrees that they are – then no one should have them. What is the moral, ethical, or legal basis for suggesting that some can and others cannot? What virtue do the "official" nuclear powers possess that democratic India lacks?

- The basic arguments which justify that International Disarmament and Non-nuclear proliferation regimes are the reflection of 'global division of power', mainly given by India are as follows:

- It was a discriminatory treaty which tried to perpetuate the superior power position of nuclear weapon states vis-a-vis the non-nuclear nations.

- It unduly tried to legitimize the power gap between nuclear and non-clear nations.

- It did not provide for either disarmament or arms control in international relations.

- It failed to check the N-programmes of France and China which, in violation of the Moscow Partial Test Ban Treaty, continued the policy of conducting nuclear tests.

- NPT was really a political instrument of nuclear weapon states. It divided the states into nuclear haves and have-nots.

- NPT was a discriminatory and inadequate Treaty

Economy

14. How changes in family law can improve household finance

Important Analysis:

- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) committee on household finance report highlights how changes in family law can improve household finance.

- These impediments are often more detrimental for women than for men, leading to important gender imbalances in financial well-being

- According to RBI report of the household finance committee, Indian households can increase their annual real income growth by up to 10% by making sensible changes to their financial arrangements.

Issues with financial arrangements in India significantly affect the well-being of households such as:

- Investment in Real estate's: On average 85 % of total assets are invested in real states.

- Low saving and investment in Insurance: Most Indian households do little saving for retirement and low investment in insurance

- Legal framework makes the financial position of widows and unmarried daughters especially fragile.

However due to some legal and regulatory impediments, these changes are difficult to implements such as:

Issues and implications of coparcenary:

- Under Hindu law, there is currently the notion of a coparcenary

- Coparceners have the right to demand partition of an ancestral property.

- However, in practice, there are often long delays arising from the need to secure agreement between coparceners to dispose of ancestral property.

- There may also be significant judicial delays in the case that conflicts between them require court resolution.

- The potential for prolonged disputes arising from the coparcenary structure weakens household incentives to liquidate unproductive investments in ancestral property.

- Dispute also reducing housing market liquidity as disputed properties are unsold for long periods of time.

Issues and implication within Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) structure

- There is a strong role for the karta, who is entrusted with the management of family wealth, as well as given the responsibility of the "general welfare of the family" (Gurpreet Singh vs Ram Saran and Ors).

- Such centralized effective control of jointly owned ancestral assets makes problems more likely to occur
- Due to such arrangement disputes can arise from undemocratic decision-making if there are differences of opinion over the optimal arrangement of the HUF's financial matters.

Recommendation of Law Commission of India:

- A Woman should, regardless of her financial contribution to the family, be entitled to an equal share in marriage property.
- Abolition of the notion of coparcenary at the central level, thus extinguishing the right to property by sheer circumstance of birth.
- Abolition of the Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) structure.
- Reforms in Hindu and Muslim law to make inheritance of property truly gender-neutral.
- Legal framework to improve the financial position of widows and unmarried daughters needed until the financial treatment of men and women is truly equal in law

15. Eight core industries output growth slows to 2.6% in Dec 2018

Why in news?

- The eight core industries' output growth fell for the second straight month to touch 2.6% in December 2018.
- This was lower than both the 3.8 per cent growth recorded in December 2018 and the 3.4 per cent growth in November 2018.

The Eight core industries are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products. Fertilizers, steel and Cement.

- Steel and cement continue to be the leading sectors due to improved government spending in these sectors, with double digit growth in December 2018.
- The performance of energy sectors (crude oil, natural gas)has not been up to the mark, due to lower crude oil prices, which impacts crude oil production as well as exports of refinery products.
- Both power and coal production have witnessed slower growth as the initial impetus of some government schemes has reduced.
- Imports of coal have also been higher, which have replaced domestic production.

16. What is the difference between full Budget and Interim Budget?

Interim budget:

A vote on account or interim Budget means that the government seeks the approval of Parliament for meeting expenditure for the first four months of

the fiscal year (April-March) with no changes in the taxation structure. The estimates are presented for the entire year, as is the case with the regular Budget

When is an interim budget presented?

- The government of the day presents an interim budget if it does not have the time to present a full Budget or because national elections may be near.
- In the latter situation, propriety demands that the task of framing the full Budget be left to the incoming government.

What is difference between full budget and interim budget?

- A full budget is the presentation of annual finances of the government, change in existing tax slabs, announcement of new schemes and sops for different sectors of the economy.
- However, in case of an interim budget, change in tax slabs are not made and no new schemes are announced; only finance estimates are presented. In case of an election year, the incoming government has full freedom to change the estimates completely when the final Budget is presented.

Background

- In 1948, erstwhile Finance Minister R K Shanmukham Chetty presented a vote on account and followed it up with Independent India's first regular budget.

Geography and Environment

17. 18 Indian institutions to study nitrogen pollution

Why in news?

South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH) to study nitrogen pollution

Important Facts:

- 18 Institutes from India and 32 other Institutions are part of South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH) which has been constituted in the United Kingdom and South Asia to assess impact of "nitrogen pollution" in South Asia.
- The SANH will study the impacts of the different forms of pollution to form a "coherent picture" of the nitrogen cycle.
- In particular, it will look at nitrogen in agriculture in eight countries — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives.

Trends in nitrogen emissions in India

- NOx emissions grew at 52% from 1991 to 2001 and 69% from 2001 to 2011
- Agriculture remained the largest contributor to nitrogen emissions.
- Non-agricultural emissions of nitrogen oxides and nitrous oxide are growing rapidly, with sewage and fossil-fuel burning for power, transport and industry

About Nitrogen Gas:

- Nitrogen gas is inert and doesn't react, colorless, odorless and tasteless.
- However, when it is released as part of compounds from agriculture, sewage and biological waste, nitrogen is considered "reactive", and it may be polluting.
- Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Nitrogen is also linked to the loss of biodiversity, the pollution of rivers and seas, ozone depletion, health, economy, and livelihoods.

Cause of Nitrogen pollution:

- Emissions from chemical fertilisers, livestock manure and burning fossil fuels.
- Gases such as ammonia (NH_3) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) contribute to poor air quality and can aggravate respiratory and heart conditions
- Nitrate from chemical fertilisers, manure and industry pollutes the rivers and seas posing a health risk for humans, fish, coral and plant life.

Applications of Nitrogen Gas

- It is used to preserve the freshness of packaged or bulk foods
- In ordinary incandescent light bulbs as an inexpensive alternative to argon
- In production of electronic parts such as transistors, diodes, and integrated circuits
- Filling automotive and aircraft tires due to its inertness and lack of moisture or oxidative qualities, as compared to air
- As a propellant for draft wine, and as an alternative to or in combination with carbon dioxide in carbonated beverages

18. Pokkali paddy

Context:

When the devastating floods in submerged large tracts of farmland across Kerala, the Pokkali paddy variety, which grows to a height of up to 2 m, survived the rising waters.

About Pokkali Paddy:

It is a saltwater-tolerant paddy grown in the coastal fields of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur districts (Kerala). It is known for its taste and high protein content. It has been awarded with GI tag many medicinal properties are also attributed to this rice.

Cropping Season:

- Paddy is grown during June to October (120 days maturity period) followed by shrimp farming during November to April.
- After the harvest, the paddy stubble in the fields acts as food and shelter for shrimp and small fish.

Rising above the rest

What makes Pokkali different?
- Saltwater resistance
- Potential to survive floods
- Salinity removed by rain

Farming process
- Paddy sown on little mounds above flooded fields
- Rice harvested by October

The available varieties of Pokkali are capable of surviving six to seven days under water, provided they are well

- Fish excreta and scales, along with the decomposed stubble, provide excellent natural manure for another season of Pokkali.
- So Pokkali farming is a system in which paddy and shrimp are grown alternately in the same field.

Present scenario:

- The variety is now grown in, only over 5,000 hectares, a drop from over 25,000 hectares a few decades ago, due to high labour cost and poor returns.
- Large amount of manual labour is required since no specialized equipment or machinery is available for this.
- Various reasons such as lack of labour, costly manpower, pollution from nearby industries contaminating the pokkali fields, widespread attack of viral infection to the shrimps are some of the problems.

19. Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project

Why in news?

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given its approval for the Sita Rama Lift Irrigation Project of Telangana.
- Aims to divert Godavari river water to irrigate 2.72 lakh hectares in three districts of Telangana state.
- The project aims to provide water for irrigation as well as to enroute tanks, villages, towns and supplement some of the existing/ proposed irrigation schemes.

Other projects in Telangana:

- The Kaleswaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) envisages construction of barrage across Godavari River after the confluence by its tributary Pranahita near Madigadda village in Telangana's Karimnagar district.
- It is redesigned version of PranahithaChevella Lift Irrigation Scheme, proposed in 2007 by the undivided Andhra Pradesh Government.

20. Delhi to Introduce MSP based on Swaminathan Commission Report

Context:

The Delhi government has decided to introduce Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers based on the report of the MS Swaminathan Commission.

Background:

A three-member committee was formed in December to study the MS Swaminathan Commission's report. The committee has submitted its report. The report will be put before experts for suggestions. Once the MSP is finalised, the government will hold meetings with farmers, seeking their views and thereafter it will be sent to the Cabinet.

The Swaminathan Commission- Inception:

The National Commission on Farmers (NCF), with MS Swaminathan as its chairman, was formed in 2004.

Aim: To come up with a system for sustainability in farming system and make it more profitable and cost competitive in farm commodities. To also recommend measures for credit and other marketing steps.

The commission submitted five reports between December 2004 and October 2006. The fifth and final report is considered the most crucial as it contains suggestions for the agriculture sector as a whole.

The Commission's observations:

- Farmers need an assured access to and control over basic resources of farming. These include land, water, fertilizers and pesticides, credit and crop insurance. Knowledge of farming technology and markets is also key.

- Farmers' concerns and other agriculture-related issues must be implemented in the concurrent list, to make it a high priority for both state and central governments.

Key recommendations of the Commission:

- Distribute ceiling-surplus and wasteland among farmers, prevent the non-agricultural use of farmland, secure grazing rights and seasonal forest access to forest tribals.

- Establish a National Land Use Advisory Service, which would link land use decisions with ecological and marketing factors of season and geography-specific basis.

- Reform irrigation resources and its distribution among farmers. Use rainwater harvesting, water level recharging to increase water supply.

- Spread outreach of institutional credit by reducing crop loan interest rates, provide a moratorium on debt recovery, agricultural risk fund and a separate Kisan Credit Card for women farmers.

- To address the growing farmer suicides, provide affordable health insurance at primary health centres in rural areas. The recommendations included an extension of national rural health mission to suicide-prone areas. Restructuring of microfinance policies, covering all crops by insurance and social security net for support were also sought.

- Give farmers a minimum support price at 50% profit above the cost of production classified as C2 by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

WHAT IS C2?

The CACP defines production costs of crops under three categories — A2, A2+FL (standing for family labour) and C2.

- A2 is the actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers — in cash and kind — on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, fuel, irrigation and other inputs from outside.
- A2+FL includes A2 cost plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour.
- C2 is the most comprehensive definition of production cost of crops as it also accounts for the rentals or interest loans, owned land and fixed capital assets over and above A2+FL.

21. Asian waterbird census

Why in news?

- A waterbird survey conducted in the Upper Kuttanad region of Kerala has recorded 16,767 birds of 47 continental and local species.
- The survey, conducted as part of the annual Asian Waterbird Census, has spotted three new species are Greater flamingo, Greyheaded lapwing, and Blue-cheeked beeeater.
- The number of birds at Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary(UP), spotted by Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) has increased by almost 75 per cent.

What are waterbirds?

- According to Wetlands International (WI),waterbirds are defined as species of birds that are ecologically dependent on wetlands.
- These birds are considered to be an important health indicator of wetlands of a region.

About AWC:

- The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is an international programme that focuses on monitoring the status of waterbirds and wetlands.
- The census is carried out each January as a voluntary activity at national and local level.
- The AWC is co-coordinated by Wetlands International- as part of global programme, the "International Waterbird Census".

The census has three major objectives:

1. To obtain information on an annual basis of waterbird population at wetlands in the region during the non-breeding period of most species (January), as a basis for evaluation of sites and monitoring of population.
2. To monitor on an annual basis the status and condition of wetlands.
3. To encourage greater interest in waterbirds and wetlands amongst people, and thereby promote the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds in the region

- The data collected for the AWC is being used to provide information on wetlands and waterbirds and to encourage local or national conservation measures for important wetlands.

- The primary role of Wetlands International in coordinating the census is to raise awareness on the importance of waterbirds and wetlands at international level and for this it collates information at regional level.
- The census is primarily carried out by volunteers from all walks of life: university and school staff and students, nature club members, amateur and professional ornithologists, government and nongovernmental agencies and others.
- Sites covered include rivers, lakes, reservoirs, tanks, swamps, coastal sites, mangrove and mudflats, reefs, sandy beaches, etc. All species of waterbirds associated with wetlands are entered onto standardized count forms.

In India, the AWC is annually coordinated by the Bombay Natural history Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International.

- BNHS is a nongovernmental Organization (NGO) founded in the year 1883.
- It engages itself in the conservation of nature and natural resources and also in the research and conservation of endangered species.
- Its mission is to conserve nature, primarily biological diversity through action based on research, education and public awareness.

More about census:

- Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary is a unique wetland for waterbirds located on the banks of Yamuna and it's one of the 467 important bird and biodiversity areas (IBAs) in India.
- No new species were found, but a large flock of greater flamingos and mixed flock of pelicans (green white and dalmatian) were spotted.
- The 2019 census was carried out in collaboration with the National Chambal Sanctuary Project, Uttar Pradesh Wildlife department and there was an active participation by volunteer from Wildlife SOS, Agra and wildlife staff of the sanctuary AWC 2019.

What is IBA?

- An Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) is an area identified using an internationally agreed set of criteria as being globally important for the conservation of bird populations.
- IBA was developed and sites are identified by BirdLife International.

Birdlife International:

- It is a global partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources
- It is world's largest conservation partnerships for conservation of birds and their habitats. It was earlier known as International Committee for Bird Preservation.

- Its global office is in UK with 6 regional offices – Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific.

- It publishes a quarterly magazine, World Birdwatch, which contains recent news and authoritative articles about birds, their habitats, and their conservation around the world.

- It is the official Red List authority for birds, for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Science and Technology

22. ISRO tastes first success of 2019, places military satellite Microsat-R in orbit

Why in news?

Isro's PSLV C-44 successfully places military satellite Microsat-R in orbit

Important Facts:

- Microsat-R, an imaging satellite, meant for military purposes has been launched from Polar rocket PSLV C44.
- Microsat-R released into a 274-km polar sun synchronous orbit
- Microsat R along with Kalamsat and 10cm cubesat released into the orbit with PSLV C-44 rocket.
- PSLV-C44 is four stage rocket and new variant of the PSLV, called the PSLV-DL
- In the previous PSLV launch on November 29, PSLV-C43 had successfully launched India's HysIS as well as 30 customer satellites from abroad
- ISRO is working on a new launch vehicle meant for smaller satellites – SSLV (small satellite launch vehicle)

Major Feature of Mission:

- It is the first time, the ISRO placed a satellite Microsat-R in a lower orbit, at around 274 kms from earth.
- Usually, PSLVs were launched without any strap-ons (boosters) or were equipped with six strap-ons fixed around the rocket, but the ISRO, for the first time, used only two boosters for the mission.

About kalamsat

- Kalamsat was the lightest ever satellite to be launched by India.
- Kalamsat is an experimental satellite for studying the communication system of nano satellites, which can be useful in many fields, predominantly disaster management

23. India tests new anti-radiation missile to take out enemy radars

Important Facts:

- India has tested a indigenous air-launched missile called NGARM, which is designed to destroy a variety of surveillance and radar targets on the ground
- DRDO-Navy combine also conducted another test of the advanced Barak long-range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) system, jointly developed by DRDO with Israeli Aerospace Industries and Rafael

- The supersonic Barak-8 missile system, whose interception range is 70-100 km, is also in the process of being tested from Indian warships.

Feature of NGARM

- It is the first indigenous air-to-ground missile to be developed by the DRDO after the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile developed jointly with Russia.
- It has strike range of around 100-km
- The NGARM can be launched from Sukhois from different altitudes and velocities

24. Innovation in India

Introduction

- Innovation at the heart of all progress of mankind are connected with the lives of the common man like Health, discovery of DNA profiling, stem cell research, organ donations, heart transplants, Innovations in satellites and rural connectivity have further boosted India's efforts to earn its rightful place in the comity of nations.
- The green revolution was an innovation that helped convert India into a food sufficient nation from a food scarce nation.
- The MHRD innovation cell (MIC), Atal Ranking of institutions of innovation achievements (ARIIA),GIAN ,SPARC ,Atal innovation mission and innovations in public systems like the BHIM App,e-NAM etc have contributed to the innovative spirit in India.
- The metro rail is one of the most innovative modern transport systems and has made a huge difference to the public transport system.
- Collective efforts by all relevant stakeholders and teaching young minds to think out of the box rather than just get through rot learning can make all the difference. MHRD innovation cell (MIC)
- Ministry of Human Resource Development has established MIC to foster the culture of Innovation in all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across the country.

ARIIA

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to rank major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties.

Atal Innovation Mission

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is Government of India's endeavor to promote generation of innovative ideas and entrepreneurship through Self-employment and Talent Utilization.

BHIM App

Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) is a payment app that was launched in 2016.It helps make simple, easy and quick transactions using Unified Payments Interface (UPI) through its ID or QR scan and brings in Financial Inclusion to the nation.

DNA profiling

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is a molecule that contains the instruction codes needed for development and function of an organism. The codes are made up of four chemical bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C) and thymine (T). ? Profiling is the process of obtaining a specific DNA pattern (profile) from a person or sample of body tissue.

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

SPARC aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating joint academic and research collaborations with international relevance.

Stem cell

Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that can turn into specific cells, as the body needs them.

They originate from two main sources: adult body tissues and embryos.

The Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN)

GIAN programme was launched for Human Resource Development at the IIT Gandhi Nagar.

It brings into practice the belief of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' for institutions, faculty and students to embrace new knowledge frontiers.

e-NAM National Agriculture Market

NAM is a Government promoted electronic trading portal which networks the existing mandis to a unified market for agricultural commodities.

25. New Delhi superbug gene reaches the Arctic

Context:

In a significant find in the global spread of multi-drug resistant (MDR) bacteria, scientists have found a **"superbug" gene** — first detected in over a decade back — in one of the last "pristine" places on Earth that is some 12,870 km away.

Soil samples taken in Svalbard — a Norwegian archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole — have now confirmed the spread of blaNDM-1 (called New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1) into the High Arctic. Carried in the gut of animals and people, blaNDM-1 and other ARGs were found in Arctic soils that were likely spread through the faecal matter of birds, other wildlife and human visitors to the area.
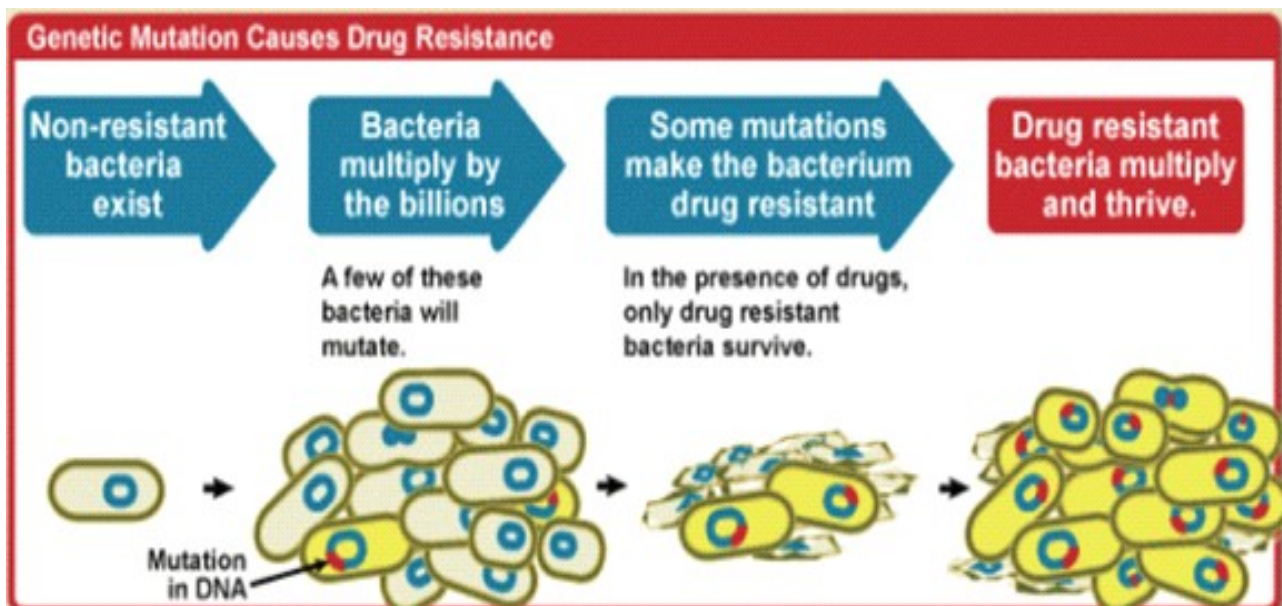
What is a superbug?

A superbug, also called multi-resistant, is a bacterium that carries several resistance genes. These are resistant to multiple antibiotics and are able to survive even after exposure to one or more antibiotics.

What causes them to mutate like that?

Like any living organism, bacteria can mutate as they multiply. Also like any living organism, bacteria have a strong evolutionary drive to survive. So, over time, a select few will mutate in particular ways that make them resistant to antibiotics. Then, when antibiotics are introduced, only the bacteria that can resist that treatment can survive to multiply further, proliferating the line of drug-resistant bugs.

Why is Antibiotic Resistance a Big Deal?

The discovery of antibiotics less than a century ago was a turning point in public health that has saved countless lives. Although antibiotic resistance develops naturally with normal bacterial mutation, humans are speeding it up by using antibiotics improperly. According to a research, now, 2 million people a year in the US develop antibiotic-resistant infections, and 23,000 of them die of those infections.

Genetic Mutation Causes Drug Resistance

Non-resistant bacteria exist → Bacteria multiply by the billions → Some mutations make the bacterium drug resistant → Drug resistant bacteria multiply and thrive.

A few of these bacteria will mutate.

In the presence of drugs, only drug resistant bacteria survive.

Mutation in DNA

Why is the medical community worried?

Basically, superbugs are becoming more powerful and widespread than ever. Medical experts are afraid that we're one step away from deadly, untreatable infections, since the mcr-1 E.coli is resistant to that last-resort antibiotic Colistin. Antibiotic-resistance is passed relatively easily from one bacteria to the next, since it is transmitted by way of loose genetic material that most bacteria have in common.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is afraid of a post-antibiotic world, where loads of bacteria are superbugs. Already, infections like tuberculosis, gonorrhea, and pneumonia are becoming harder to treat with typical antibiotics.

What Can We Do?

First step would be to limit antibiotic use. If a patient has a virus, for instance, an antibiotic won't work, so doctors shouldn't prescribe antibiotics even if the patient insists. And when patients do need antibiotics, it's important to make sure they take the full course to kill off every last infection-causing germ. Otherwise the strong survive, mutate, and spread. As a society, curbing antibiotic use in healthy animals used in human food production is another important step.

Miscellaneous

26. Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Fund:

Context: Three former Tata Group executives in partnership with Quantum Advisors will launch a $1 billion Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Fund.

About the Fund:

- The Fund will invest in Indian companies that value the environment, society and corporate governance to the core.

- The proposed equal joint venture(JV) would mobilise funds from long-term foreign investors such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and family offices of high networth individuals (HNIs) who value ESG.

- The fund will aim to drive higher ESG performance in Indian corporates and it will adopt an engaged, private equity approach to public markets investing, with a focus on working with companies willing to recognize the long-term advantages of actively adopting ESG standards of excellence.

Significance: There is pressing need for such a fund in India as there are concerns on standards of corporate governance in the country and Indian companies will need to play a central role to help achieve global climate change targets.

27. Lala Lajpat Rai- The Inclusive Nationalist

- Lala Lajpat Rai was a national leader who championed 'unity in diversity'

- Lajpat Rai was an advocate of an assertive Hindu politics, exemplified by his participation in the Punjab Hindu Sabha in 1909 and Hindu Mahasabha in the mid-1920s.

- But his vision of Hindu politics was very different from the exclusivist Hindu nationalism.

- In 1915, he proclaimed that "religious nationalism" was a "false idea", embodying a "narrow sectarianism" which could never be "truly national".

- For him religion was a matter of individual faith which must not interfere with the common civil life of the country.

- He pronounced that Indians, whether Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Parsi, were a common race. Indian Muslims were descendants of the Aryan race who had merely converted to Islam and they continue to be influenced by their ancestral Aryan-Hindu culture.

- He talked of a larger distinctive Indian culture that consists of India's diverse peoples, emphasising "Unity in Diversity".

- For Lajpat Rai, Akbar was a role model whose memory ought to inspire Hindus and Muslims in building nation's future by combining not just the best of the two cultures, but also the best of Western culture.
- He favoured a heterogenous culture for India as 'one religion and one tongue' would be a revival of the medieval idea of one empire, one people, one church.

Even after Lajpat Rai turned to the Hindu Mahasabha for numerous complicated reasons, he never renounced his commitment to India's religio-cultural diversity.

28. Philip Kotler Presidential Award

Why in news?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded first ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award.
- PM Modi was selected for his outstanding leadership for the nation.
- Under PM Modi's leadership, India is now identified as the centre for innovation and value-added manufacturing (Make in India), as well as a global hub for professional services such as information technology, accounting and finance.

About the award:

- Philip Kotler Presidential Award aims to spread examples of individuals and companies who create an innovative culture for the economic, social and technological advancements of an industry or a country.
- Philip Kotler, a professor of marketing at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management is also known as 'Father of Modern Marketing.
- It is constituted to honour mastery in the field of marketing and management.

29. Gandhi Peace prize

Why in news?

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 has been announced by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- The awardees were selected by the jury under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

About the peace prize:

- The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted in the year 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This annual award is given to individuals and institutions for their contributions towards social, economic and political transformation through non-violence and other Gandhian methods.

- The award carries a cash prize ofRs.1crore, a citation and a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.
- Gandhi Peace Prize is open to all personsregardless of nationality, race, creed or gender.
- Notably, a jury consisting of the Prime Minister of India, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India and two other eminent persons decides the awardee each year.
- Therefore, for this year, the jury comprised of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress Leader Mallikarjun Kharge, CJI Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and BJP veteran Mr. L.K.Advani.

Who can win Gandhi Peace prize?

- Generally, proposals coming only from competent persons invited to nominate are considered.
- However, a proposal cannot be deemed invalid for consideration by the jury, solely on the ground of not having emanated from competent persons.
- If, however, none of the proposals merit recognition, the jury is free to withhold the award for that particular year.
- Only achievements within 10 years immediately preceding the nomination are considered for the award.
- An older work/cause may, however, be considered in case its significance has not become apparent until recently.
- A published written work only would be considered eligible for validation.
- Julius K Nyerere, former President of Tanzania, was the first recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize Award in 1995.

30. Global aviation summit 2019

Why in news?

- The Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu on January 15, 2019 inaugurated the Global Aviation Summit 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Summit is a union and it will address the problems faced in the aviation sector.

About the summit:

- **Theme: "**Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion".
- The two-day summit is being organised by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India (AAI) in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, CiviI Air Navigation Services Organization (CANSO), Airports Council

International (ACl), International Air Transport Association (IATA) are the partner organizations of the Summit.

- The two-day summit will host a conference, expo and will endeavour meaningful engagements via G2G, G2B, B2B meetings and other networking opportunities.

- The platform will bring together prominent leaders from across the world to share their experiences on strengthening national aviation ecosystems.

- The event will also examine the future of drones, sustainable growth of aviation, cargo and logistics in the aviation industry – all the factors behind building great aviation business.

31. 'Project Gaushala'

In news:

- Madhya Pradesh government to set up 1,000 'gaushalas' or cow shelters in the State in the next four months to accommodate around one lakh stray cows and their progeny.

- Setting up 'gaushalas' in every village panchayat was a key promise made by the Congress in its manifesto for the 2018 Assembly elections.

- With this announcement, the government expects to not only tackle stray cattle menace but also create 40 lakh man-days employment.

- The Department of Rural Development will be the project's nodal agency. The project will be implemented by gram panchayats, self-help groups, the institutions empanelled with the State Board for Conservation of Bovine Animals etc.

OUR BRANCHES

Hyderabad : Indira Park

Domalguda
Ph: 040-27620440, +91 991 244 1137
Email: ias.analog@gmail.com

Hyderabad : Ashok Nagar

Above OBC Bank
Ph: 8121046686, +91 991 244 1138
Email : ias.analog@gmail.com

Hyderabad : Madhapur

100 Ft Road, Ayyappa Society,
Ph: 040-48522831, +91 990 856 4438
Email : ias.analog@gmail.com

New Delhi : Old Rajinder Nagar

57/12, Third Floor,
Ph : 011- 49785868, +91 880 028 3132
Email : ias.analog.delhi@gmail.com

Vizag : Dwaraka Nagar

Office-3, 3rd Floor, GK Towers,
Ph: 0891- 2546686, +91 998 513 6789
Email : ias.analogvizag@gmail.com

Guntur : Arundalpet

2nd Floor, Eluri Mansion 2/1,
Ph: +91 996 335 6789
Email : ias.analog.guntur@gmail.com

OUR RESULTS - 2017

62 Fathima Zeba HT No : 786820

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

761 765 768 769 828 832 872 886