

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2018
OCTOBER 16- 31(Part – II)
HINDU & PIB IN DEPTH ANALYSIS



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GENERAL STUDIES- 1

• SOCIETY

#Self4Society: A govt. app to rope in volunteers

IN NEWS:

- Professionals keen on doing volunteer work in their free time will be provided a platform by the government through an app, **#Self4Society**, developed by **MyGov**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the app at a townhallstyle event on October 24.

IN DEPTH:

FEATURES OF THE APP :

- A lot of companies **run volunteering initiatives**. This platform will help to **create better synergies** among so many initiatives and lead to a much better outcome of the efforts of professionals.
- Companies have observed that a spirit of service and **volunteering improves employee satisfaction** and reduces employee attrition.
- The app will have **incentives, gamification** and **intra and intercompany competitions**, and **social networking**.
- At first, this will be aimed at IT companies, with more joining in when it takes off.
- The volunteer time for the **government's flagship programmes** such as Swachh Bharat is expected to increase.

GENERAL STUDIES -2

• GOVERNANCE

22 Zika cases in Rajasthan

IN NEWS:

- Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confirmed 22 positive laboratory-confirmed cases of **Zika virus** in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur.

IN DEPTH:

WHAT IS ZIKA?

Zika virus disease -emerging viral disease –first discovered in Uganda.

Transmission:

- bite of Aedes mosquito
- mother to fetus during pregnancy
- through sexual contact
- transfusion of blood and blood products, and organ transplantation.

Symptoms:

- mild and include fever, rash, conjunctivitis
- muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy -infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome
- preterm birth and miscarriage.
- risk of neurologic complications is associated with Zika virus infection in adults and children, including Guillain-Barré syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis.

About National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

- India's National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) assists Indian states with **infectious disease control** through assistance with multidisciplinary outbreak investigations, communicable disease surveillance, networking of public health labs, and capacity building.
- NCDC's goal is to expand to national surveillance of vaccine-preventable diseases, animal health/human health interface, and to build capacity through short-term training programs and long-term programs.
- NCDC was established to function as a national centre of excellence for **control of communicable diseases**.

IIT-Bombay tops in QS ranking

IN NEWS:

Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, has topped the first-ever standalone ranking of Indian higher education institutions by QS.

IN DEPTH:

About QS Ranking:

- QS is a **think tank** that is famous for bringing out **world rankings of institutions**.
- **Independent analysis** of the performance of Indian institutions.
- The rankings include **Public Universities, Private Universities and H.E. Institutions or Deemed Universities**. Single faculty specialist institutions or single level institutions
- The top 10 Indian institutions include seven IITs, with the IITs at Madras, Delhi, Kharagpur and Kanpur standing third, fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, in the rankings.
- To improve global rankings of Indian institutions, **the Centre** is trying to **facilitate more foreign faculty and foreign students' intake** in Indian institutions

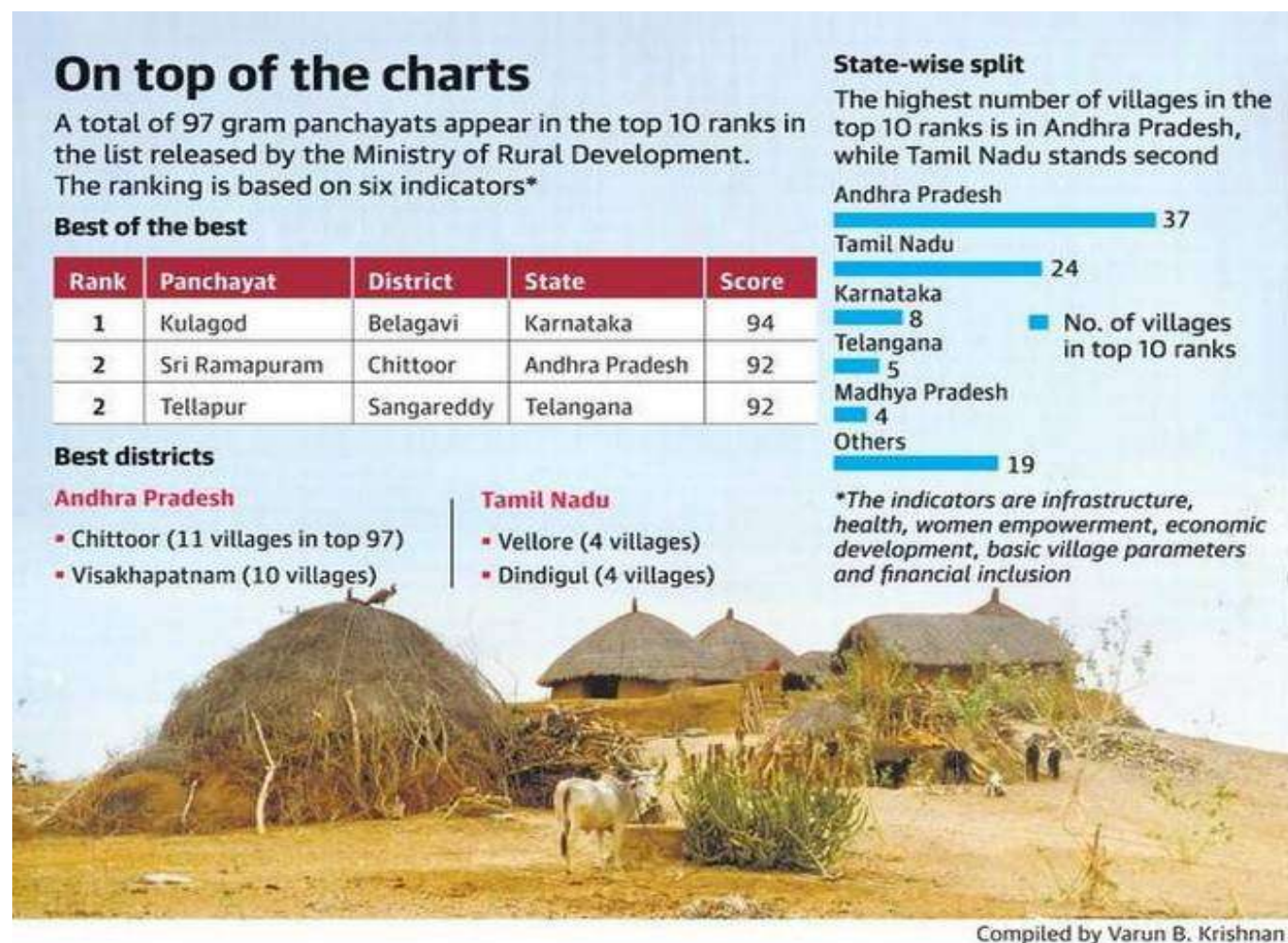
Schemes by central government on higher education in india:

University and Higher Education

- Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)
- Establishment of 14 World Class Central Universities
- Setting up of 374 Degree Colleges in Educationally Backward Districts
- Scheme for incentivising state governments for expansion of higher education institutions
- Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme, 2009 on Model Education Loan Scheme of IBA

A.P. hamlets shine in rural survey

IN NEWS:



IN DEPTH:

DETAILS IN THIS REPORT:

- With multiple panchayats assigned the same score – and thus tied at the same ranking – there are 97 panchayats in the top 10 ranks.
- Of these, **37 panchayats** are in **Andhra Pradesh** while **24 are in Tamil Nadu**.
- Villages from other States are represented only in single digits.
- Of the States going to the polls next month, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh have five and four panchayats in the top 10 ranks respectively.
- The Rural Development Ministry** has done a gap **analysis of more than 3.5 lakh villages**, in more than 1.6 lakh panchayats under the Mission Antyodaya convergence scheme.
- A team of officials **surveyed and scored village level facilities** and amenities using parameters related to infrastructure, economic development and livelihood, irrigation facilities, health, nutrition and sanitation, women's empowerment, and financial inclusion.
- Survey for every village** in the country allows for greater public accountability, it also allows for more evidence based planning at the panchayat level.

‘In urban U.P., 87% of waste from toilets goes to rivers, farmlands’

IN NEWS:

- While urban Uttar Pradesh has 80% coverage of toilets, **inefficient sanitation systems** ensure that almost 87% of the excreta being generated by these toilets is being dumped in water bodies or agricultural lands, according to a **new analysis of 30 cities by the Centre for Science and Environment**.

IN DEPTH:

DETAILS IN THIS REPORT:

- With 2019 just round the corner, the **number of toilets and onsite sanitation systems** being built in the State are all set to increase exponentially — **if not managed scientifically and sustainably**, the amount of faecal sludge that these new toilets will generate will swamp the State.
- The report argues that building more toilets will only **worsen the environmental, sanitation and manual scavenging situation**, unless sewerage connections increase from the current 28% of households in the 30 cities studied.
- Onsite sanitation systems — such as septic tanks or pit latrines — are far more prevalent, and are used by 47% of households.

Manual scavengers

- Without a sewerage system, the effluent from the septic tank, along with greywater from the kitchen and bathroom flows out into stormwater drains and open drains or nullahs.
- The faecal sludge, on the other hand, has to be periodically emptied from the septic tank, either manually or mechanically using vacuum trucks or tankers.
- CSE’s analysis found that half of all emptying work in these cities is done manually, despite the legal prohibition of the employment of manual scavengers.

SC moves to make festivals less noisy

IN NEWS:

- The article deals with **right to public health**.
- Supreme Court held that **only green or improved crackers** would be used during religious festivals and other occasions, including weddings.
- It has **fixed time limit** – for bursting crackers during Deepavali and other festivals to two hours: between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.
- **CPCB** (Central Pollution Control Board) and **PESO** to make collaborative efforts for setting up of standards with regard to air pollution caused by the bursting of fire-crackers.
- The judgment said though **the right to health** was part of **the fundamental right to life under Article 21** and assumed “greater importance,” the “endeavour” of the court right now was to strive for **a balance between the right to public health and the right to occupation of the industry**.

Less bang for the buck

TIME LIMIT: Deepavali: 8 p.m.-10 p.m.
Christmas, New Year's eve: 11.55 p.m.-12.30 a.m.

■ Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) to clear all firecrackers

■ PESO will review the composition of fireworks to test for presence of banned chemicals like lithium, arsenic, lead and mercury; to submit report in 2 weeks

■ Blanket ban on online sale of firecrackers

■ Ban on barium salts in crackers

■ Ban on series crackers or 'laris'

■ In case of violations, the Station House Officer will be liable for contempt of court



IN DEPTH:

About Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

- PESO is the apex department to control and administer manufacture, storage, transport and handling of explosives, petroleum, compressed gases and other hazardous substances in India.
- It functions under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It is headed by Chief Controller of Explosives
- It is headquartered at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- It is responsible for the administration of a host of laws pertaining to the regulation of explosives. These include the Explosives Act, 1884; the Inflammable Substances Act, 1952 and the Explosives Rules, 2008.
- The PESO has been testing samples of crackers only for adherence to the sound limit of 125 decibels at a distance of four meters.

Mission Antyodaya

IN NEWS:

- Mission Antyodaya is a convergence framework for measurable effective outcomes on parameters that transform lives and livelihoods.
- ***'Real Difference comes about through Convergence'*** as it alone simultaneously addresses multi dimensions of poverty. Professionals, Institutions and Enterprises make it possible.
- Poverty Free India by 2022.

IN DEPTH:**MISSION ANTYODAYA**

- Evidence of convergence reducing poverty, raising incomes – IRMA Study.
- ‘Communitization’ through Women SHGs improves education, health, nutrition indicators.
- Saturation approach creates many more ‘islands of success’
- Leveraging Bank loans promotes an enterprise model.
- Many initiatives provide for universal coverage of the eligible beneficiaries – Ujwala, SBM, PMAY, Skills, Power, Roads, internet, Bank accounts.
- Integral positive co-relation among infrastructure, human development and sustainable economic well-being.
- 5000 islands of successful Rural Clusters over 1000 days will be transformational.

Panel on sustainable development goals

IN NEWS:

- The Cabinet approved the setting up of a high-level steering committee chaired by the Chief Statistician of India and Secretary to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to review if India was on track to achieving the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.

IN DEPTH:**ABOUT PANEL:**

- The panel would decide if there was a **need to “refine” indicators by reviewing the National Indicator Framework** periodically.
- The committee would recommend measures to “mainstream” SDGs into ongoing national policies, programmes and strategic action plans to address the developmental challenges.

ABOUT SDG:

- The SDGs are a list of 17 goals, including elimination of poverty, ending hunger, ensuring provision of quality education, clean water and sanitation, that countries must achieve by 2030.

Indian Institutes of Skills: Skill development centres on PPP Model

IN NEWS:

- Government approves scheme for setting up Indian Institute of Skills
- The Centre has decided to set up skill development institutes on government land, in partnership with private players, across the country.
- The public-private partnership model will be adopted to set up the institutes — to be called the **Indian Institutes of Skills** — at select locations, based on demand and available infrastructure.

IN DEPTH:**About Indian Institute of Skills (IIS)**

- The IIS is being opened by the **Union Skill Development Ministry** in partnership with the **Institute of Technical Education, Singapore**.
- The idea of IIS was conceptualised by PM Modi during his visit to Singapore’s Institute of Technical Education.
- Its primary objective is to empower India’s youth to be more employable and self-sustainable.
- The institutes are expected to help boost the global competitiveness of key industry sectors by providing high-quality skill training, applied research education and a direct and meaningful connection with the industry

Centre's nod for 7,522 cr. fisheries fund

IN NEWS:

- The Centre has set up a 7,522-crore fund to create infrastructure facilities for the fisheries sector.
- The move is expected to boost annual fish production to 20 million tonnes by 2022-23 from the current production of 11.4 million tonnes.

IN DEPTH:

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

- The establishment of the FIDF was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC) and all scheduled Banks (hereinafter referred as Banks) shall be the nodal Loaning Entities.

Benefits:

- Creation of **fisheries infrastructure** facilities both in marine and inland fisheries sectors.
- To augment fish production to **achieve its target of 15 million tonne by 2020** set under the Blue Revolution; and to achieve a sustainable growth of 8% -9% thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about 20 MMT by 2022-23.
- **Employment** opportunities to over 9.40 lakh fishers/fishermen/fisherfolk and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
- To **attract private investment** in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities.
- Adoption of new technologies.

Understanding the basics: CBI and CVI

IN NEWS:

- Many reports have surfaced stating dishonesty and harassment of the public by those at top positions in the CBI.

IN DEPTH:

About CBI

- CBI was established under the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1941**.
- It is the primary central government body responsible for policing.
- It comes under the **Department of Personnel and Training** which is under the PMO.
- Hence, the **head of the CBI reports directly to the PMO** as FBI reports directly to the President of the United States.
- CBI is **not a statutory body** as it was created by executive resolution.

AUTHORITY:

The CBI is subject to three ministries of the Government of India and Two Constitutional bodies:-

1. Ministry of Home Affairs: Cadre Clearance
2. DoPT: Administration, Budget and Induction of non IPS officers
3. Union Public Service Commission: Officers of and above the rank of Deputy SPECIES
4. Law and Justice Ministry: Public prosecutors
5. Central Vigilance Commission: Anti-corruption cases.

About CVC and its role with regard to CBI

- Central Vigilance Commission is a **statutory body under CVC Act** and serves as the apex anti-corruption body.
- CVC was established in 1964 under the **recommendations of Santhanam Committee**, it gained statutory authority in 2003 CVC Act.
- It **superintends the work of CBI** in corruption cases.
- CVC has no investigation wing of its own as it depends on CBI and the Chief Vigilance Officers of central organizations, while CBI has its own investigation wing.

Functions and powers of the Central Vigilance Commission under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003

- CBI works under the guidance of CVC when the matter is related to public corruption.
- CVC doesn't have any control or oversight over CBI as its officers are appointed, transferred and promoted by DoPT which comes under PMO.
- CBI investigates other high-profile cases other than the matters of public corruption while CVC's role is only limited to matters of corruption and probity in public life.

Supreme Court and Justice Radhakrishnan committee on Road Safety

IN NEWS:

Supreme Court had directed that –

- All States and Union Territories should frame a Road Safety Policy.
- Should set up lead agencies to work as secretariats of State Road Safety Councils to co-ordinate on activities such as licensing issues like driving licences, registration of vehicles, road safety and features of vehicles.
- It is mandatory for States and Union Territories to establish Road Safety Fund, the corpus of which would come from traffic fines collected. The money would be used to meet the expenses for road safety.
- Framing Road Safety Action Plans by March 31 (2018) to reduce the number of road accidents, as well as the fatality rate.

IN DEPTH:

Cause of concern:

- 90 per cent of the problem of deaths due to road accidents was the result of a lack of strict enforcement of safety rules on roads and strict punishment for those who do not obey rules.
- There was one death almost every three minutes due to road accidents. Only half the number of families of these victims were compensated.
- Many states are yet to frame Road Safety Action Plans and establish district road safety committees (as recommended by Radhakrishnan committee)

Justice Radhakrishnan committee on road safety:

- Set up after the Supreme Court intervention.
- The Justice Radhakrishnan panel would fix the responsibility and functions of the State road safety councils.
- These councils would periodically review the laws and take appropriate remedial steps wherever necessary.
- Similarly, lead agencies and district road safety committees should be established.

● INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

India, China set to resume drill

IN NEWS:

- India and China will resume the annual joint Army exercise ‘**HandinHand**’ in December in China’s Chengdu region.

IN DEPTH:

- The drill was cancelled last year due to tense relations in the **aftermath of the Doklam standoff**.
- Following the Wuhan summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in April, the two countries have initiated several measures to normalise relations.
- The scope of the exercise is to understand transnational terrorism and evolve joint drills for the conduct of counter terrorism operations, in addition to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations.
- The exercise will be held in three phases — **familiarisation, basic training and the joint exercise**.
- Separately, the Army has for the first time organised a forward area tour to Leh on October 16 and 17 for interested foreign service attaches posted in India.

U.S. to pull out of Russia missile pact

IN NEWS:

- U.S. President Donald Trump confirmed that the U.S. would pull out of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty with Russia.

IN DEPTH:

About Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

- INF Treaty is a crucial **Cold War-era treaty** which led to banning the development, testing and possession of short and medium range ground-launched nuclear missiles with a range of 500-5,000 km.
- The treaty, signed in 1987, was central to ending the arms race between the two superpowers, and protected America’s NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks.

The real issue:

- US has accused that Russia has developed and deployed Novator 9M729 missile, also known as the SSC-8, that could strike Europe at short notice. (However, Russia has repeatedly denied the allegation)
- The Russians denied the allegations and raised counter-allegations of the U.S. installing missile defence systems in Europe.

Consequences:

- A withdrawal will allow the U.S. new weapon options in the Pacific in its efforts to counter China’s growing influence.
- There are also concerns that the treaty’s end could mark the beginning of a new arms race between the U.S. and Russia.

Panel for adopting UN model on cross-border insolvency

IN NEWS:

- The **Insolvency Law Committee (ILC)**, tasked with **suggesting amendments** to the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code of India**, has recommended that India **adopt the United Nations' model** to handle cross-border insolvency cases.

IN DEPTH:

What is UNCITRAL Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency?

- The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Model Law of Cross Border Insolvency, 1997 provides for a **comprehensive framework** to deal with **crossborder insolvency issues**.
- The UNCITRAL Model Law has been **adopted in 44 countries** and, therefore, forms part of international best practices in dealing with cross border insolvency issues, the government said.
- The advantages of the model law are the precedence given to domestic proceedings and protection of public interest.

PROVISIONS OF UNCITRAL:

a) Access : These provisions give representatives of foreign insolvency proceedings and creditors a right of access to the courts of an enacting State to seek assistance and authorize representatives of local proceedings being conducted in the enacting State to seek assistance elsewhere.

(b) Recognition : One of the key objectives of the Model Law is to establish simplified procedures for recognition of qualifying foreign proceedings in order to avoid time-consuming legalization or other processes that often apply and to provide certainty with respect to the decision to recognize

(c) Relief : Key elements of the relief available include interim relief at the discretion of the court between the making of an application for recognition and the decision on that application, an automatic stay upon recognition of main proceedings and relief at the discretion of the court for both main and non-main proceedings following recognition.

(d) Cooperation and coordination : These provisions address cooperation among the courts of States where the debtor's assets are located and coordination of concurrent proceedings concerning that debtor. The Model Law expressly empowers courts to cooperate in the areas governed by the Model Law and to communicate directly with foreign counterparts.

Israel, India sign \$777 mn missile deal

IN NEWS:

- India and Israel has signed a \$777 mn deal
- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to supply additional **Barak-8 Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) systems** for seven warships of the Indian Navy.
- The LRSAM can intercept aerial targets up to a range of 80 km. It is being co-developed by the DRDO in India and IAI, and will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited.

IN DEPTH:**What is Naval Barak 8 Missile?**

- Naval Barak-8 is a long-range anti-air and anti-missile naval defence system
- developed jointly by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) of India. Surface-to-air missiles (SAM)
- can counter attack aircraft, UAVs and incoming anti-ship missiles
- Naval Barak-8 missiles will be installed on the three Project 15A Kolkata Class guided-missile destroyers under construction at the Mazagon shipyard in India Four Project 15B Kolkata Class destroyers will also be armed with extended range surface-to-air missiles (ER-SAM). The extended-range missile can strike targets within the range of 100km.

India-Japan: 13th annual summit**IN NEWS:**

India Japan 13th annual summit happened recently. Various Aggrements were signed by both sides and attained cooperation in different sectors.

IN DEPTH:**Key highlights:**

- Both the countries outlined a vision for strengthened bilateral relations.
- Main focus – enhanced strategic and defence cooperation.
- Unwavering commitment towards “**free and open Indo-Pacific**”.
- Invest in upholding the rule of law and democratic values.
- Both countries to “expand concrete cooperation with the U.S. and other partners”.
- Announced the start of negotiations on an **Acquisition and Cross-servicing Agreement**, a logistics-sharing pact, that would allow Japanese ships to get fuel and servicing at Indian naval bases.
- A new **Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue**, termed **2+2**, was also announced to supplement an already formidable array of bilateral dialogue mechanisms that include the Annual Defence Ministerial Dialogue, Defence Policy Dialogue and the National Security Advisers Dialogue.
- On the **economic front**, the two countries have agreed to a **Bilateral Swap Arrangement** that would allow their central banks to exchange local currencies for **up to \$75 billion**.

Freedom of navigation

- Both the countries also referred to the necessity of ensuring the freedom of navigation and the importance of upholding the **UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)**, a set of conventions that China has been accused of flouting in the South China Sea.

GENERAL STUDIES -3

● ECONOMY

Need for proper definition of Shell companies

IN NEWS:

- As multiple agencies and regulators probe the suspected use of ‘**only-on-paper**’ firms for financial irregularities, the government is looking to put in place a proper definition for ‘shell companies’ so that investigations are not hampered and prosecution can withstand scrutiny in courts of law.
- **Current definition for ‘shell companies’** — a term generally used for companies that are set up for financial manoeuvrings only or are kept dormant for some future use.
- Officials express that these companies generally **exist only on paper** and may be used for nefarious activities.

IN DEPTH:

DEFINITION IN OCED :

- OECD defines a shell company as ‘**being formally registered, incorporated or otherwise legally organised in an economy but which does not conduct any operations in that economy other than in a pass-through capacity**’

problems associated with shell companies:

- Shell companies were used to deposit large amount of cash during the period of demonetization
- Shell companies were being used to hid assets and money.
- The shell companies support much of the fraud and embezzlement in India.
- The owners of shell companies create elaborate smokescreens, including naming personal servants, and chauffeurs as board directors, route money to evade tax, commit fraud or manipulated tenders.

UPI to facilitate interoperability among prepaid payment instruments

IN NEWS:

- The Reserve Bank of India has released the **guidelines for interoperability** between prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) such as wallets and cards.

IN DEPTH:0

ORDERS ISSUED BY RBI:

- It will effectively allow users of popular payment wallets such as Paytm, Freecharge, Mobikwik, PhonePe and PayZapp, among others, to **transfer money from one wallet to another**.
- The RBI also allowed **PPIs to issue cards using authorised card networks** such as Mastercard, Visa or RuPay.
- PPI issuers shall adhere to all the requirements of card networks/UPI, including membership type and criteria, merchant onboarding, adherence to various standards, rules and regulations applicable to the specific payment system such as technical requirements, certifications and audit requirements, governance, etc.

PURPOSE BEHIND THIS MOVE :

- The guidelines, while **boosting the ewallet segment**,

- would also **ensure the safety and accuracy** of the transfer of money by individuals from one wallet to another.
- It is a progressive **move for nonbank players** and would lay the foundation to reach the **underbanked and unbanked segment** with a powerful payment product.

Direct tax base widens sharply over 4 years, compliance rises

IN NEWS:

- The **direct tax base** has significantly widened in the last few years, according to new back series data released by the government.
- The data showed a **growth of more than 80% in the number of returns filed** in the last four financial years from 3.79 crore in financial year (FY) 201314 to 6.85 crore in FY 201718.

Further, the **number of persons filing income tax returns also increased** by about 65% during this period from 3.31 crore in FY 201314 to 5.44 crore in FY 201718

IN DEPTH:

DETAILS IN THE REPORT:

- The data is showing **higher level of compliance** resulting from various legislative and administrative measures taken by the government, including effective enforcement measures against tax evasion.
- The data also showed that the **direct taxGDP** ratio rose to 5.98% in FY 201718, the highest it has been in the last 10 years.

STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND TAX BASE:

- One, the **effect of demonetization**.
- Two, the **increase in the use of information being collected digitally** and being used by the tax department.
- Three, the **movement towards digital assessment** and decrease in the number of cases being picked up for scrutiny, and
- Four, the **ease of getting refund**, majorly by small and medium taxpayers.

● ENVIRONMENT

Pollution forecast system unveiled

IN NEWS:

- The Central government announced a pollution forecast system that can alert, three days in advance, about the likelihood of extreme pollution events and dust storms.
- The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, the IMD and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, are involved with developing the application.

IN DEPTH:

Recent issues:

- According to the data collected by the Ministry of Earth Science's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the concentration of the particle PM 1, which is under 1 micron in size, touched 54.32 micrograms per cubic metre in DELHI .This was the highest this season so far.

SC to ban sale of BS-IV vehicles from 2020

IN NEWS:

- The Supreme Court banned the sale and registration of motor vehicles conforming to the emission standard Bharat Stage-IV in the entire country from April 1, 2020.
- It said – 'No compromise on public health'
- The country will have to shift to the cleaner Bharat- VI fuel from April 1, 2020.

IN DEPTH:

ABOUT BHARAT EMISSION NORMS:

Difference in BS-IV and BS-VI standards Emission:

The BS norms have been similar to Euro norms till now, and with norms after BS-IV not defined yet, we compare the existing BS-III and BS-IV norms in India with the Euro 6 norms on which India's emission norms have been set.

Petrol Emission Norms (All figures in g/km)

| Emission Norm | CO | HC | NOx | HC+NOx | PM |
|---------------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| BS-III | 2.30 | 0.20 | 0.15 | --- | --- |
| BS-IV | 1.00 | 0.10 | 0.08 | --- | --- |
| Euro 6 | 1.00 | 0.10 | 0.06 | --- | 0.005 |

Diesel Emission Norms (All figures in g/km)

| Emission Norm | CO | HC | NOx | HC+NOx | PM |
|---------------|------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| BS-III | 0.64 | --- | 0.50 | 0.56 | 0.05 |
| BS-IV | 0.50 | --- | 0.25 | 0.30 | 0.025 |
| Euro 6 | 0.50 | --- | 0.06 | 0.17 | 0.005 |

DESCRIPTION ABOUT POLLUTANTS:

- CO emissions are Carbon Monoxide emissions are more evident in Petrol engines. Long Term exposure can prevent oxygen transfer and increase headaches/nausea.
- HC emissions are Hydrocarbons which are again more prevalent in Petrol engines. Short term exposure can cause headaches, vomiting and disorientation.
- NOx emissions are Nitrogen Oxide emissions which are more prevalent in Diesel engines. Long Term exposure can cause Nose and eye irritation and damage lung tissue.
- PM is Particulate matter, again more prevalent in a Diesel engine. Long Term exposure can harm the respiratory tract and reduce lung function

Mammals of India (MaOI)**IN NEWS:**

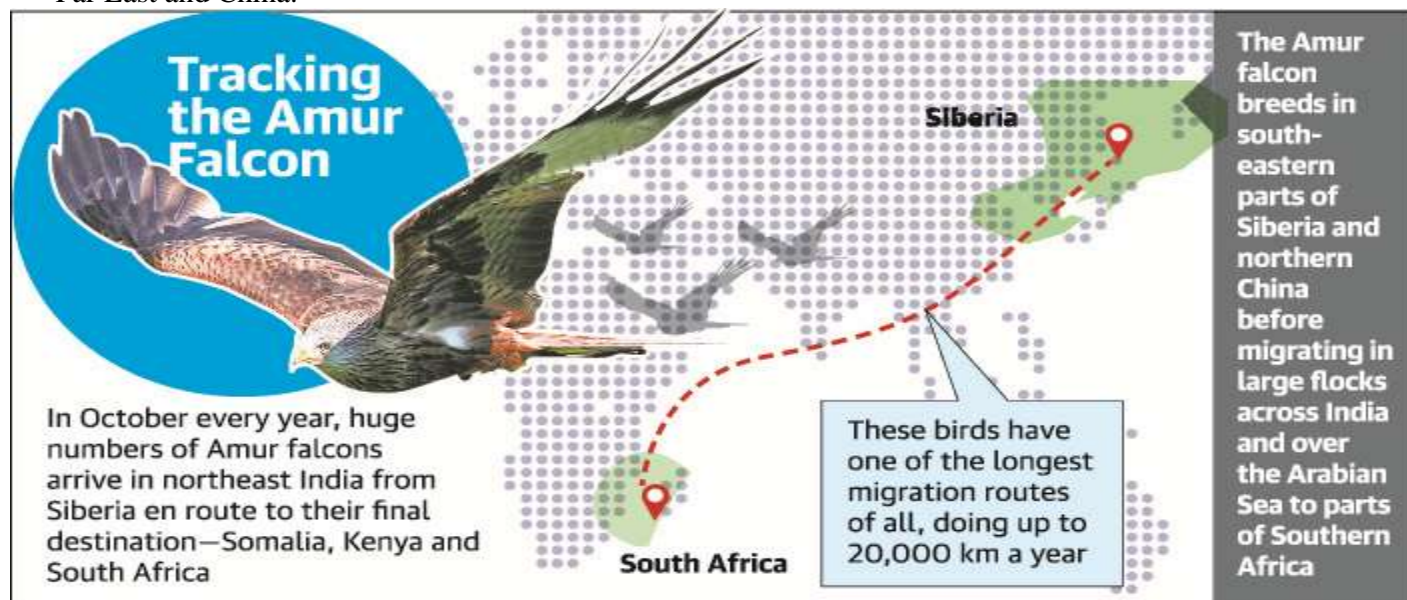
- Scientists and researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore have come up with a new **citizen-science repository** on **Indian mammals**, called Mammals of India (MaOI).

IN DEPTH:

- Mammals of India (MaOI) is an **online, peer-reviewed, freely-accessible portal** – The website provides an opportunity to **anyone to upload photographic** observations on mammals to be reviewed by experts and uploaded on the website.

Animal in news: Amur falcon**IN NEWS:****About:**

- Amur falcon is a **small raptor** of the falcon family.
- It breeds in **south-eastern Siberia and Northern China** before migrating in large flocks across India and over the Arabian Sea to winter in Southern Africa.
- The falcon breeds in south-eastern Siberia and north-eastern China, where the Amur River divides the Russian Far East and China.



IN DEPTH:

- It is a small raptor, of the size of a pigeon. It covers one of **the largest migratory distances** from **Mongolia and Russia to South Africa**.
- It is not a critically endangered species and is found in large numbers. However, due to **indiscriminate killing**, their numbers are rapidly coming down.
- It is considered as a **delicacy in Nagaland** and widely hunted and sold in the local market.
- The Centre decided to develop **Doyang Lake in Nagaland**, famous as a roosting site for longest travelling raptors Amur Falcons, as an eco-tourism spot for bird-watchers.

Children under 15 at serious risk from polluted air: WHO**IN NEWS:**

According to WHO –

- Every day about 93% of the world's children under the age of 15 (1.8 billion children) breathe polluted air.
- Children could suffer neuro-development deficits.
- Air pollution also **impacts neuro-development and cognitive ability** and can trigger asthma, and childhood cancer.
- Children exposed to high levels of air pollution may be at greater risk for chronic diseases, such as
- **cardiovascular disease** later in life, the WHO said.

IN DEPTH:**REPORT SUMMARY:****Silent killer**

- Air pollution affects neurodevelopment and cognitive test outcomes, and negatively affects mental and motor development

- Damages children's lung function, even at low levels of exposure

- Globally, 93% children under 18 are exposed to PM2.5 levels above WHO guidelines

- This includes 630 million children under 5 years, and 1.8 billion children under 15



- In low- and middle-income countries, 98% of all children under 5 are exposed to PM2.5 levels above WHO air quality guidelines. In high-income countries, the figure is 52%

- About 6 lakh deaths across the world in children under 15 years were attributed to the joint effects of ambient and household air pollution in 2016

CURRENT ISSUES ALL OVER COUNTRY:

- Delhi tops national charts in bad air quality.
- Fourteen out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India.
- The report says India faces the highest air pollution-related mortality and disease burden in the world.

DEFENCE**India-U.S. tri-services exercise****IN NEWS:**

- The first India-U.S. tri-services exercise is likely to take place in 2019.
- Talks are on to include the special forces of the two countries in the drill.
- this will be the first time, the three services of India and the U.S. will participate in a drill together.

IN DEPTH:

- The three forces of each country already take part in bilateral exercises separately —

INDIA – U.S-

- Armies - **Yudh Aabyas**
- Air Forces - **Cope India**
- Navies - **Malabar** (Japan)

India, France in talks to conduct tri-service exercise**IN NEWS:**

- India and France are in discussions for a bilateral tri-service military exercise.
- Both the countries are also exploring ways to operationalise the logistics agreement.

IN DEPTH:

India and France currently hold bilateral exercises between individual services –

- Shakti : : Army version
- Varuna : : Navy
- Garuda : : Air Force

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:**1) Consider the following statements about Zika Virus**

1. Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes.
2. It can be transmitted through sexual transmission but not through vertical transmission

Select the correct statements

- a. 1 Only
- b. 2 Only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

2) The Aedes mosquito spreads

- 1) Dengue 2) Chikungunya
- 3) Zika virus 4) Malaria

- a. 1, 2, 3
- b. 1, 2, 4
- c. 1, 3, 4
- d. All of the above

3) Bilateral drills such as – Yudh Aabyas and Cope India – are associated with:

1. India-US
2. India-Russia
3. India-France
4. India-Australia

4) Bilateral drills such as – Shakti, Varuna and Garuda – are associated with:

1. India-US
2. India-Russia
3. India-France
4. India-Australia

5) Government of India has introduced SAFAR system in important metropolitan cities of India for

- a. Forecasting the condition of roads in different weather
- b. Providing precise Indian navigation system
- c. Providing location specific information on air quality in near real time
- d. Providing details of tourist places and hotels in and near the cities

1) The crisis in India's higher education system has only deepened with time. Analyse in the light of various ills plaguing our higher education system.

2) What are steps taken by government to breakdown this shell companies?