

UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2018
DECEMBER 1-15 (Part – I)
HINDU & PIB IN DEPTH ANALYSIS



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GENERAL STUDIES- 1

ART AND CULTURE

Sri Brihadeeswarar temple, Thanjavur

IN NEWS:

- HC stays Art of Living event at Sri Brihadeeswarar temple in Thanjavur, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The iconic Great temple was over 1,000 years old and by allowing private parties to put up temporary structures within its premises, the authorities were showing no regard for heritage.

IN DEPTH:

Sri Brihadeeswarar temple

- It is a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva located in Thanjavur in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
- It is also known as Periya Kovil (Great Temple), RajaRajeswara Temple and Rajarajeswaram.
- It is one of the largest temples in India and is an example of Dravidian architecture during the Chola period.
- Built by emperor **Raja Raja Chola I** and completed in 1010 AD, the temple turned 1000 years old in 2010.
- The temple is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the “Great Living Chola Temples”, with the other two being the Brihadeeswarar Temple, Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Airavatesvara temple.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE:

A **World Heritage Site** is a landmark or area which is selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having cultural,^[1] historical, scientific or other form of significance, and is legally protected by international treaties. The sites are judged important to the collective interests of humanity.

To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be an already classified landmark, unique in some respect as a geographically and historically identifiable place having special cultural or physical significance (such as an ancient ruin or historical structure, building, city, complex, desert, forest, island, lake, monument, mountain, or wilderness area). It may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet.

Odisha celebrates its traditional lac doll marriage

IN NEWS:

- **Odisha** celebrated its traditional **lac doll marriage** — the bride and the groom were beautiful dolls made of lac.
- The marriage was organised in conformity with the **Odia tradition** of ‘jau kandhei bahaghara (lac doll marriage)’
- The aim of this unique marriage ceremony was to **promote traditional folk and tribal art forms** and create awareness against social evils like dowry and child marriage.
- The marriage procession included performers of **several folk dance forms** such as – **Bagha Nacha** (tiger dance), **Ghoda Nacha** (horse dance), **Sakhi Nacha**.

GENERAL STUDIES - 2

GOVERNANCE

AgustaWestland helicopter deal bribery case

IN NEWS:

- Agusta middleman extradited to India from the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- British national **Christian James Michel** is wanted in the alleged ₹3,700 crore AgustaWestland helicopter deal bribery case.

IN DEPTH:

AgustaWestland scandal:

- **In early 2013**, an Indian national parliamentary investigation began into allegations of bribery and corruption involving several senior officials and helicopter manufacturer AgustaWestland surrounding the purchase of a new fleet of helicopters. The scandal has been referred to as the **Chopper scam**, or **Choppergate**.
- Several Indian politicians and military officials have been accused of accepting bribes from Agusta Westland in order to win the Rs 36 Billion(US\$530 million) Indian contract for the supply of 12 Agusta Westland AW101 helicopters; these helicopters are intended to perform VVIP duties for the President of India and other important state officials.
- The AgustaWestland scandal broke in 2013 and the former Air Force Chief S P Tyagi and two other key accused have been arrested on criminal conspiracy and illegal gratification charges by the CBI (in July 2018).

Disabilities Act

IN NEWS:

A study conducted by the Disability Rights India Foundation (DRIF) highlighted that –Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act is very poor and ineffective.

IN DEPTH:

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

- Only 10 States have notified rules under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.
- The Act which was passed in December 2016 should have been notified by all States within six months.
- Nearly 80% of the States had not constituted the funds for implementation of the RPWD Act.
- Only Tamil Nadu has taken some action with regard to providing an increased quantum of assistance for people with disabilities in social security schemes.
- Though 62% of the States have appointed Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities, the progress has not been substantial.
- Only three States have constituted Advisory Committees, comprising of experts, to assist the State Commissioners.
- While 58% of the States have not notified Special Courts in the districts for trying offences under the Act, 87% have not appointed a Special Public Prosecutors as mandated by the law.

Report card

A look at the status of implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, two years after it came into force:

Number of States and UTs that have responded: **24 (67%)**

States that have not notified State rules: **58%**

States and UTs without State Advisory Boards: **50%**

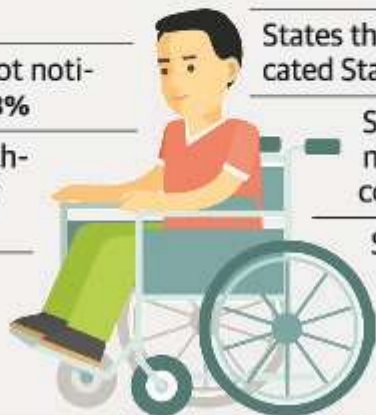
States and UTs without State Commissioners

for Persons with Disabilities: **37%**

States that have not allocated State funds: **79%**

States without notified special courts: **58%**

States without Special Public Prosecutors: **87%**



Source: DRIF, NCPEDP & NCRPD

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

- The Act replaced the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- It fulfils the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory.
- The Act came into force during December 2016.

Salient Features:

- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21. It includes Speech and Language Disability, Specific Learning Disability, Acid Attack Victims, Dwarfism, muscular dystrophy. It also included three blood disorders: Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease have been added for the first time.
- Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.
- In addition benefits such as reservation in higher education, government jobs, reservation in allocation of land, poverty alleviation schemes etc. have been provided for disabilities.
- The Act claims that every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education. The government will fund educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions to provide inclusive education to the children with reasonable accommodation to disables.
- Special Courts will be designated in each district to handle cases concerning violation of rights of PwDs.
- The Act provides for penalties for offences (imprisonment of 6 months to 2 years along with fine of 10000 to 5 lakh) committed against persons with disabilities and also violation of the provisions of the new law.
- The Act provides power to government to notify additional disabilities, a clear recognition of the need to factor in conditions that may arise as a result of an ageing population, an inevitable part of the demographic transition.
- The new law will not only enhance the Rights and Entitlements of Divyang-Jan but also provide effective mechanism for ensuring their empowerment and true inclusion into the Society in a satisfactory manner.

Citizens to get an option to opt out of Aadhaar

IN NEWS:

- Government is finalising a proposal to amend the Aadhaar Act to give all citizens an **option to withdraw their Aadhaar number**, including biometrics and the data.
- This follows the **Supreme Court judgment in September** that upheld the validity of Aadhaar.
- In line with the court order, the proposal also seeks to **appoint an adjudicating officer** to decide whether a person's Aadhaar-related data need to be disclosed in the interest of national security.

IN DEPTH:

Key outcomes of Supreme Court Judgment

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had **struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act** that allows private entities to use the unique number for verification.
- The Bench also declared that seeking to link it with bank accounts and SIM cards was unconstitutional.
- The court had also **struck down Section 33(2)**, which allowed disclosure of Aadhaar information for national security reasons on the orders of an officer not below Joint Secretary.
- It had said an officer above Joint Secretary should consult a judicial officer and together take a call.

India gets first witness protection scheme

IN NEWS:

- The Supreme Court has put in place a witness protection regime in the country.
- The scheme aims to promote law enforcement by facilitating the protection of persons who are involved directly or indirectly in providing assistance to criminal law enforcement agencies and the overall administration of Justice.
- SC noted that one of the main reasons for witnesses turning hostile was that they were not given security by the State.

IN DEPTH:

- Under the witness protection scheme – witness protection may be as simple as providing a police escort to the witness up to the courtroom or, in more complex cases involving an organised criminal group, taking extraordinary measures such as offering temporary residence in a safe house, giving a new identity, and relocation to an undisclosed place.
- The issue of witness protection scheme had cropped up earlier when the top court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking protection for witnesses in rape cases involving self-styled preacher Asaram Bapu.

Need for such scheme

- *Jeremy Bentham has said that "Witnesses are the eyes and ears of justice."*
- In a society governed by a Rule of Law, it is imperative to ensure that investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences is not prejudiced because of threats or intimidation to witnesses.
- In cases involving influential people, witnesses turn hostile because of threat to life and property. Witnesses find that there is no legal obligation by the state for extending any security.

As such witnesses should be entitled to the following rights:

1. Right to give evidence anonymously
2. Right to protection from intimidation and harm
3. Right to be treated with dignity and compassion and respect of privacy

4. Right to information of the status of the investigation and prosecution of the crime
5. Right to secure waiting place while at Court proceedings
6. Right to transportation and lodging arrangements

Centre amends Citizenship Rules, 2009

IN NEWS:

- Union Home Ministry has notified amendments to the **Citizenship Rules, 2009**.

IN DEPTH:

What are those amendments?

- Now Citizenship Rules to include a **separate column** in the citizenship form for applicants belonging to **six minority communities** from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.
- In other words, a separate entry in the form will ask the applicant: "Do you belong to one of the minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan — Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, Sikhs and Christians?"
- The Centre has made the changes under **Section 18 of the Citizenship Act, 1955**.
- A parliamentary committee has been examining the **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016**, that **proposes citizenship to above six persecuted minorities** from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who came to India before 2014.
- However, the above proposed provision has run into strong resistance in the BJP-ruled Assam because it will **pave the way for giving citizenship mostly to illegal Hindu migrants** from Bangladesh in Assam, who came after March 1971, in **violation of the 1985 Assam Accord**.

JICA project faces land acquisition issues

IN NEWS:

- The government acquired land from private parties have long been the subject of heated dispute, often resulting in violent conflict.
- Recently, **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** held meetings with farmers, their representatives and activists opposing land acquisition for the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project**. The JICA funds the project.
- The meeting was to understand their concerns and demands for parting with their land.

IN DEPTH:

- Over 1,000 farmers have filed affidavits, contending that the process violates the guidelines of the JICA.
- They had demanded for a fresh environment impact assessment and a social impact assessment.
- Farmers allege that – As per JICA guidelines, there must be fair compensation for those whose land is acquired for any project funded by it; but in the case of the bullet train project, the Gujarat government has diluted the provisions so that compensation comes down.
- In other words, the State has diluted the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, after Japan entered into a contract in September 2015 with the Indian government to build the country's first bullet train corridor between Mumbai to Ahmedabad.

Centre rejects minority religion status to Lingayats

IN NEWS:

- The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs (MMA) reiterated its earlier stand that the Lingayat/Veerashaiva community is considered as “a religious sect of Hindus.”
- It communicated to Karnataka that it was not possible to accede to the State’s recommendation to grant minority religion status to Lingayat/Veerashaiva community.
- MMA noted that Lingayats have always been classified under Hindu sect ever since 1871 census.

IN DEPTH:

- The Union Government set up the **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
- **Five religious communities**, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) have been notified as minority communities by the Union Government.

Land acquisition law challenged in court

IN NEWS:

- The Supreme Court decided to examine a plea challenging the **legality of amendments** brought in by Tamil Nadu and four other States (Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Jharkhand), **which allow authorities to bypass the need to take farmers’ consent** before their land is acquired for large infrastructure projects.
- The petition filed by activist Medha Patkar said the **States allow land acquisition without participation of representative local bodies** like gram sabha in social impact assessment studies, **without expert appraisal processes, public hearings, objections**, and safeguard provisions to ensure food security. (violates the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013)

IN DEPTH:

LAAR Act 2013

- It **compels a social and environmental impact assessment as a precondition** for any acquisition.
- It also acknowledges a **need for a system of rehabilitation and resettlement** for those whose livelihoods are likely to be affected by the transfer of land.
- The law provided for **greatly enhanced compensation, consent of those whose land was sought** to be acquired, and detailed rehabilitation and resettlement provisions (including employment, land for land, and other beneficial schemes). In other words, it changed the relationship between the state and the individual by empowering the latter against the former.
- It mandates that **70% of the affected land owners should consent** to the acquisition of land for a public private participation project.
- It also included a retrospective clause. **Section 24** of the new Act provided that under certain circumstances, **acquired land could be returned to affected families**.

Don't reveal identity of rape victims: SC

IN NEWS:

- Supreme Court prohibited the media from publishing or airing the names or any material which may even remotely reveal the identity of victims of sexual crimes.
- No person can print or publish in print, electronic, social media, etc. the name of the victim or even in a remote manner disclose any facts which can lead to the victim being identified and which should make her identity known to the public at large.
- The intention of the law makers was that the victim of such offences should not be identifiable so that they do not face any hostile discrimination or harassment in the future.
- SC also barred the police from putting in public domain FIRs under Sections 376 to 376E (the range of sexual offences under IPC) and those under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Lack of basic rights for the aged a concern: SC

IN NEWS:

- Supreme Court has expressed its disappointment over lack of basic rights and inadequate welfare provided to senior citizens and the aged.
- The court said it was a statutory right of every aged person under the **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act of 2007** to be provided dignity, health and shelter.
- All the three are important components which make the fundamental right to life under Article 21.

IN DEPTH:

- The **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act** makes it obligatory for children or relatives to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents.
- It also provides for the setting up of old age homes by State governments.
- Lack of knowledge of rights, the inherent inability of the elderly to approach a tribunal for recourse under the law, and poor implementation of the Act by various State governments are other concerns
- The increase in the number of elderly people in the country calls for responsible policies and programmes for their protection and care.

Indian Scenario

- India is expected to be home to 300 million elderly people by 2050
- 18 per cent of the population is going to be over 60 years of age by 2050
- In India, about 50 per cent of the elderly are being financially dependent on others
- Most of the elderly have been turned out from their homes, or have lost a partner, or just can't manage to live on their own anymore
- Elderly Population need to thrive not just survive

It is time India pay heed to the problems of those who are old, else the country will be faced with a large incidence of degenerative diseases, accompanied with serious gaps in the geriatric medical ecosystem, a changing joint family structure, the lack of 'grey-friendliness' in public spaces, transport, housing, and a virtually non-existing policy framework to tackle these issues.

The court directed that the Centre should prepare a plan of action for giving publicity to the provisions of 2007 Act and ensure that the State governments carry out and execute the provisions of the law.

SC bats for rights of death row convicts

IN NEWS:

According to a recent judgment by the Supreme Court –

- **Death row convicts should be allowed to meet with family, friends, lawyers** and mental health professionals for a “reasonable period of time with reasonable frequency” like any other prisoner.
- It is part of their fundamental right to **dignity and equality**.
- The court said prison manuals or laws depriving condemned prisoners of their basic rights should be nixed.
- The court banked on generalities, referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and reiterated that **right to life includes the “right to live with human dignity.”**

Groundwater extraction will invite a fee

IN NEWS:

- In a bid to promote conservation of groundwater, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified a **water conservation fee (WCF)**.
- Industries will need to pay on groundwater extraction starting from June 2019.

IN DEPTH:

- As per the CGWA notification, industries extracting groundwater, including mining-dewatering units and those that use groundwater for packaged drinking water, will need to apply for a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the government.
- Individual households that draw groundwater using a delivery pipe of a greater than 1” diameter, too, will need to pay a WCF.
- However, the agriculture sector — the largest consumer of groundwater in the country — will be exempt from the fees.

10 die after taking temple ‘prasadam’

IN NEWS:

- At least 10 people died and over 60 were hospitalised after consuming ‘prasadam’ distributed at a temple in Karnataka.

IN DEPTH:

- The FSSAI had set a deadline of September 1, 2019 for temples to start following the regulations under the Food Safety and Standards Act of India 2006, as well as the Food Safety (Licensing and Registration) Rules.
- The food safety commissioner said that every temple has to secure a licence or registration in order to sell ‘prasadam’ through temple counters.
- Temple authorities have to ensure that the storerooms and temple areas where food is cooked maintain hygiene standards under Food Safety and Standards Act.
- Also the water used for cooking it should be safe and must be tested periodically and the certificate on water safety kept for perusal.

How Food Safety Management System can ensure quality Prasad?

- By Standardizing prasad ingredients and manufacturing process to improve its shelf-life and safety

- Vendors to be trained in food safety, hygiene; persuaded to apply for licence
- By encouraging self-audit to ensure that ingredients used in prasad are safe
- Food handlers to be trained in good manufacturing practices; to be educated about personal hygiene and using protective clothing, such as aprons, gloves
- By introducing rotational system for food stock to ensure first-expired-first-out; strengthening documentation and record keeping so that the stock can be traced
- Mandating management of wastes, such as flowers, fruits and vegetables, in such a way that they do not affect food safety

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

China and the United States to halt additional tariffs

IN NEWS:

- China and the United States decide to hold off fresh tariffs for 90 days.
- Washington keeps the rate at 10%; Beijing agrees to buy American farm products.
- Both sides are trying again to bridge their differences with fresh talks aimed at reaching an agreement within 90 days.
- The two sides will also launch new trade talks to address issues, including technology transfer, intellectual property, non-tariff barriers, and agriculture.
- If no deal is reached within 90 days, both parties agreed that the 10% tariffs will be raised to 25%.

IN DEPTH:

How US-China trade war will affect India?

- In trade conflicts, there are no winners. Too much protectionism ultimately constricts global growth.
- The effects of a trade war are unlikely to be restricted to merely these two countries. Due to this, India too could find some changing dynamics in its economy.
- The basic principles of economics, i.e., demand and supply, will once again come into play. The shortage of supply of a good, either finished material or raw material, will increase the final consumption price for the consumer.
- Moreover, the burden of increased tax from the duties will also be borne by the final user.

The following are some ways the Indian economy may be affected:

- The **value of the Rupee** has dropped to an all-time low. Weakening of the US dollar will automatically create negative impact on the trade deficit of India, causing a chain reaction of sorts. Moreover, a trade war would slowdown global growth overall, worsening India's already dismal export numbers.
- **Poor investors' confidence** – key indices in the Indian share market dropped due to the cautious approach of the investors. BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty performance fell. Reduces investment flows into India.
- **India-US duties** – As the United States of America imposed duties on steel and aluminium, India now has to pay approximately \$241 million worth of tax to the US. India, on the other hand, as a counter-measure has proposed imposing duties on 30 different types of goods. This will ensure that the US has to pay about \$238 million as duties to India.
- However, this will make life more difficult for the end consumers as everything that falls under the tariff scanner is expected to become more expensive.

Qatar to quit OPEC

IN NEWS:

- Qatar will leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) next month in order to focus on gas production.
- Qatar has been a member of OPEC since 1961, and the decision to pull out after all these decades comes at a turbulent time in Gulf politics, with Doha under a boycott by former neighbouring allies, including Saudi Arabia, for 18 months.

IN DEPTH:

About OPEC

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela. They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.

These countries were later joined by Qatar (1961), Indonesia (1962), Libya (1962), the United Arab Emirates (1967), Algeria (1969), Nigeria (1971), Ecuador (1973), Gabon (1975), Angola (2007), Equatorial Guinea (2017) and Congo (2018).

India and Bhutan Ties

IN NEWS:

- Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering is expected to visit India.
- He reiterated that India remains the cornerstone of Bhutan's foreign policy.
- Bhutan aims to graduate from an LDC (least developed country) to a middle-income country by 2023.

IN DEPTH:

Area of focus will be –

- India's revised policy on **cross-border trade of electricity (CBTE)** – which is expected to impact Bhutan's ability to sell power to India.
- Revising **BBIN (Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal) Motor Vehicles Agreement** – which was opposed by Bhutanese Parliament.
- Bhutan's new Foreign Minister reiterated the country's policy of not having full relations with any permanent member of the UN Security Council, including China.

India's Bhutan 750 megawatt Mangdechhu hydropower project

IN NEWS:

- India is expected to commission a major hydropower project in Bhutan.
- Cooperation in the hydropower sector was a sign of strength of the time-tested ties between the two countries.

IN DEPTH:

- The Mangdechhu project was bagged by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and it will be implemented on a bilateral basis.

Pak. issues visas to visit Shiva temple

IN NEWS:

- Going ahead with a people-oriented diplomacy, Pakistan has issued a large number of visas for Indian pilgrims who are expected to visit the famed Shiva temple at Katas Raj Dham, near the city of Lahore.

IN DEPTH:

- **Katas Raj** is a complex of ancient temples that is among the most important Hindu pilgrimage centres in Pakistan.
- The temple complex consisting of seven shrines, is located around the Katas lake, considered sacred by pilgrims of multiple faiths.
- Apart from the temples, the area is renowned for its Buddhist remains and architecture.
- Pakistan had earlier granted 3,800 visas for Sikh pilgrims visiting **Nankana Sahib Gurdwara** in Pakistan's Punjab for the celebration of the 549th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak.
- It had also issued 220 visas for the **Shadani Darbar temple** in Sukkur where a centuries-old festival is continuing.
- Pakistan also formally inaugurated the project for **building the corridor** that will allow Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy temple at **Kartarpur** across the border.

The High Commission said Pakistan remains committed to the **bilateral understanding of 1974** with India that allows pilgrims to travel freely.

Gilets Jaunes movement/Yellow Vest movement

IN NEWS:

- The yellow vests movement (Gilets Jaunes movement) is a **citizens' protest movement** began in early November 2018 **against a planned rise in the tax on diesel and petrol**, which French President Emmanuel Macron insisted would aid the country's transition to green energy.
- The movement was named "gilets jaunes" (yellow vests) because protesters wear the fluorescent yellow high-vis jackets that all motorists must by law carry in their cars.
- But what **began as a fuel tax protest** has now morphed into a **wider anti-government movement**.

IN DEPTH:

- Unlike previous French protest movements, it **sprang up online** through petitions and was **organised by ordinary working people** posting videos on social media, without a set leader, trade union or political party behind it.

Who are the protesters and what are their grievances?

- Protesters have largely come from peripheral towns, cities and rural areas across France and include many women and single mothers.
- Most of the protesters have jobs, including as secretaries, IT workers, factory workers, delivery workers and care workers.
- All say their low incomes mean they cannot make ends meet at the end of the month.

The movement is predominantly **against a tax system perceived as unfair and unjust**, but there are numerous grievances and differences of opinion.

Most want to scrap the fuel taxes, hold a **review of the tax system**, **raise the minimum wage** and **roll back Macron's tax cuts** for the wealthy and his **pro-business economic programme**. But some also **want parliament dissolved and Macron to resign**.

Sri Lanka political crisis

IN NEWS:

- We know that a constitutional crisis began in Sri Lanka when President Maithripala Sirisena abruptly sacked then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and replaced him with Rajapaksa.
- Sirisena appointed Mahinda Rajapaksa as prime minister before formally dismissing the incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe, resulting in two concurrent prime ministers.
- Wickremesinghe and the United National Party (UNP) viewed the appointment as illegal, and he refused to resign.

IN DEPTH:

Role of Judiciary

- Political crisis in the island nation ended.
- Mahinda Rajapaksa decided to “step down” after the Supreme Court refused to stay an earlier appeal court order restraining him and his purported Cabinet from functioning in office.
- Sri Lanka’s Supreme Court took firm stand and ruled dissolution of Parliament unconstitutional.
- Mr. Rajapaksa’s resignation may pave the way for the installation of a government that enjoys a majority in Parliament.

GENERAL STUDIES 3

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Export Policy: Policy to double agri exports

IN NEWS:

- Cabinet approved the **Agriculture Export Policy**, aimed at increasing India’s exports to **\$60 billion by 2022** from the current \$37 billion.
- This is in line with the Prime Minister’s vision of **doubling farmers’ income**.

IN DEPTH:

Objectives:

- To **double farmers’ income**.
- To **diversify the export basket** and destinations.
- To **boost high-value and value-added exports**, with a focus on perishables.
- To promote the export of “**novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional** and non-traditional” products.
- To provide an **institutional mechanism** for market access, tackling barriers, and dealing with sanitary and phytosanitary issues.
- To strive to **double India’s share in world agri exports** by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.
- **Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities** in overseas market.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Train 18 – India's first engine-less train

Fast forward

Train 18 – India's first engine-less train – breached the 180 kmph speed threshold on Sunday during a test run in the Kota – Sawai Madhopur section, becoming the country's fastest train. If trials go well it may replace the Shatabdi Express soon

FEATURES AND FACILITIES

- Aerodynamically designed driver cabins at both ends for quicker turn-around at destinations
- Alternate coaches are motorised to ensure even distribution of power and faster acceleration or deceleration
- Regenerative braking system to save power
- Inter-connected, fully sealed gangways
- Automatic doors with retractable footsteps
- Onboard Wi-Fi and infotainment
- GPS-based passenger information system
- Modular toilets with bio-vacuum systems
- Rotational seats which can be aligned in the direction of travel (executive class)
- Roller blinds and diffused LED lighting
- Disabled-friendly toilets
- Emergency talk-back units to contact train crew
- CCTVs in all coaches for safe and secure travel

₹100 crore

Approximate cost of train

200 kmph

Possible peak speed

Jan. 2019

Expected commencement of commercial run

5 more
Train 18s in the pipeline

16 Number of coaches (same as Shatabdi)

18 months
The time reportedly taken to conceive, design and develop the train

Train 18 exceeds 180 kmph...
The stability of water bottles (inside the train) at this speed is testament to the quality of workmanship and design of our engineers

PIYUSH GOYAL
Minister of Railways



Kaiga n-power unit creates world record

IN NEWS:

- The **Kaiga nuclear power plant**, which is located in western **Karnataka**, has created a world record for the **longest uninterrupted operation of 941 days**.
- It broke the earlier record of **940 days** by the **Heysham plant** in the **United Kingdom**.
- While the Kaiga (KGS-1) is a Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), Heysham-2 Unit-8 is an Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor (AGR).
- The achievement demonstrates that the nation's capability in nuclear power generation technology of PHWR had fully matured and proved the excellence in design, construction, safety, quality and operation and maintenance practices of the Corporation.

IN DEPTH:

Kaiga nuclear power plant

- The KGS-1, located 56 km from **Karwar**, has been generating electricity continuously since May 13, 2016.
- It is an **indigenously-built PHWR** run by **domestic fuel (uranium)**. It began commercial operations on November 16, 2000, and has produced 500 cr. units of power so far.
- In June this year, KGS-1 had set a national record for continuous operation of 766 days.
- According to official sources, KGS-1 will be shutdown for maintenance on December 30.

Nuclear reactors undergo mandatory checks and have to get clearance from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board to continue operations.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO's 5.8-tonne GSAT-11 ready for launch

IN NEWS:

- GSAT-11, heaviest Indian communication satellite, to take off from French Guiana (South America)
- The 5,854 kg satellite, almost double the biggest one built or launched by ISRO to date, will ride up on European launch vehicle Ariane 5 ECA.
- GSAT-11 is part of ISRO's new family of high-throughput communication satellite (HTS) fleet that will drive the country's Internet broadband from space to untouched areas; the broadband domain is now ruled by underground fibre and covers partial and convenient locations.

IN DEPTH:

- Two high-throughput communication satellite (HTS) are already up in space – GSAT-29 (November 14) and GSAT-19 (June 2017)
- They are all to provide high-speed Internet data services at the rate of 100 Gbps (Gigabits per second) to Indian users.
- The HTSs will also be the backbone of pan-India digital or easy Internet-based programmes and services — such as Digital India, Bharat Net for rural e-governance, and commercial and public sector VSAT Net service providers.

Big push for communication

GSAT-11 will play a vital role in providing broadband services across the country. It will also provide a platform to demonstrate new generation applications

■ Launching from French Guiana between **2 a.m. & 3 a.m. IST** on Dec. 5

■ Will be lifted to space on a **European Ariane 5 rocket**

■ Mass 5,854 kg, cost **₹1,200 crore**, including the foreign launch

■ Will rest in over the 74°E longitude, nearly **36,000 km** away



■ Will carry **40 transponders** in the Ku /Ka bands

■ Built to provide throughput data rate of **16 gbps**

■ Expected to work for **15 years**

APPLICATIONS:

To meet unprecedented data demands: Greater capacity and high data rates over regions due to use of the spot beam technology

Supporting Bharat Net connectivity: Substantial bandwidth coverage to gram panchayats for supporting e-governance and other platforms

VSAT terminals: Capacity platform to support a huge subscriber base

Unlock new applications: Reaching out to different strata of society through Digital India platform

National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)

IN NEWS:

- Union Cabinet approved the launching of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).
- The Mission is to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology at a total outlay of ₹3,660 crore over five years.
- The Mission targets the establishment of 15 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH), six Application Innovation Hubs and four Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRP).

IN DEPTH:

Details of the Mission:

The Mission addresses the ever increasing technological requirements of the society, and takes into account the international trends and road maps of leading countries for the next generation technologies. The mission implementation would develop and bring:

- Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) and associated technologies within reach in the country,
- adoption of CPS technologies to address India specific National / Regional issues,
- produce Next Generation skilled manpower in CPS,
- catalyze Translational Research,
- accelerate entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem development in CPS,

- give impetus to advanced research in CPS, Technology development and higher education in Science, Technology and Engineering disciplines, and
- place India at par with other advanced countries and derive several direct and indirect benefits.

The Mission will feed the Central Ministries/ Departments and State Govts and also the Industry to effectively use the CPS technologies in their projects and schemes for the benefit of the society.

Are GM crops a failure?

IN NEWS:

According to a research paper co-authored by leading agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan –

- GM crops are considered to be a failure.
- GM crops such as Bt cotton, the stalled Bt brinjal as well as DMH-11, a transgenic mustard hybrid – has failed as a sustainable agriculture technology and has, therefore, also failed to provide livelihood security for cotton farmers who are mainly resource-poor, small and marginal farmers.
- It raised questions on the genetic engineering technology itself on the grounds that it raises the cost of sowing.

IN DEPTH:

Prof. Swaminathan, credited with leading India's Green Revolution, has in recent years advocated 'sustainable agriculture' and said the government should only use genetic engineering as a last resort.

Swaminathan emphasised that genetic engineering technology is supplementary and must be needbased. Only in very rare circumstance (less than 1%) may there arise a need for the use of this technology.

However, the research paper – 'Modern Technologies for Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security' – was criticised by India's Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), K. VijayRaghavan as 'deeply flawed'.

Not sustainable

Arguments raised by P.C. Kesavan and M. S. Swaminathan in their paper:

- Mutations and natural selection are the predominant evolutionary mechanisms to induce variations in flowering plants
- In r-DNA technology (Genetic Engineering or GE) all the molecular and cellular events which are triggered with the insertion of 'exogenous DNA', are not precisely understood
- Since cost of GE seeds and inputs as in Bt Cotton are exorbitant, small farmers are unable to withstand crop losses
- The site of a gene's insertion is not controllable, and health concerns from unintended effects



have been raised

- Precautionary principle has been done away with in India and no rigorous biosafety protocols and evaluation of GM crops are in place
- Bt cotton in India failed to live up to promises in 10 years, on high yields from

pest resistance and reduction in insecticide use

- Huge socio-economic cost is borne by farmers from hybrids in Bt cotton
- Bt cotton farmers are asked to revert to traditional pest management, displaying failure of Bollgard II cotton

THE CONTEXT

- Bt cotton occupies greater than 95% of India's cotton acreage
- Yields have stagnated at around 500 kg/ha (lower than yields in China and Egypt)
- Bt Brinjal was cleared by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee but was put on a moratorium by the UPA government
- DMH-11, or GE mustard developed by Delhi University was cleared by the GEAC, but later it was withdrawn

Water traces found on asteroid Bennu

IN NEWS

- NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has discovered ingredients for water on asteroid Bennu.
- The discovery may hold clues to the origins of life on the earth.
- OSIRIS-REx found traces of hydrogen and oxygen molecules — part of the recipe for water and thus the potential for life — embedded in the asteroid's rocky surface.

IN DEPTH:

- The probe was launched in 2016.
- Bennu orbits the Sun at roughly the same distance as the earth.
- The spacecraft will later fly back to the earth, return samples from the asteroid to earth for study. (in September 2023)

OSIRIS-REx

- The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a NASA asteroid study and sample-return mission.
- The mission's main goal is to obtain a sample of about 60 grams (2.1 oz) from 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.

ENVIRONMENT

'CO2 levels poised for record high'

IN NEWS:

According to researchers at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and the **Global Carbon Project** –

- Global carbon emissions are set to hit an all-time high of 37.1 billion tonnes of CO2 in 2018.
- India, the third-highest contributor, is projected to see emissions rise by 6.3% from 2017.

The 2.7% projected global rise in 2018 has been driven due to –

- appreciable growth in coal use
- sustained growth in oil and gas use

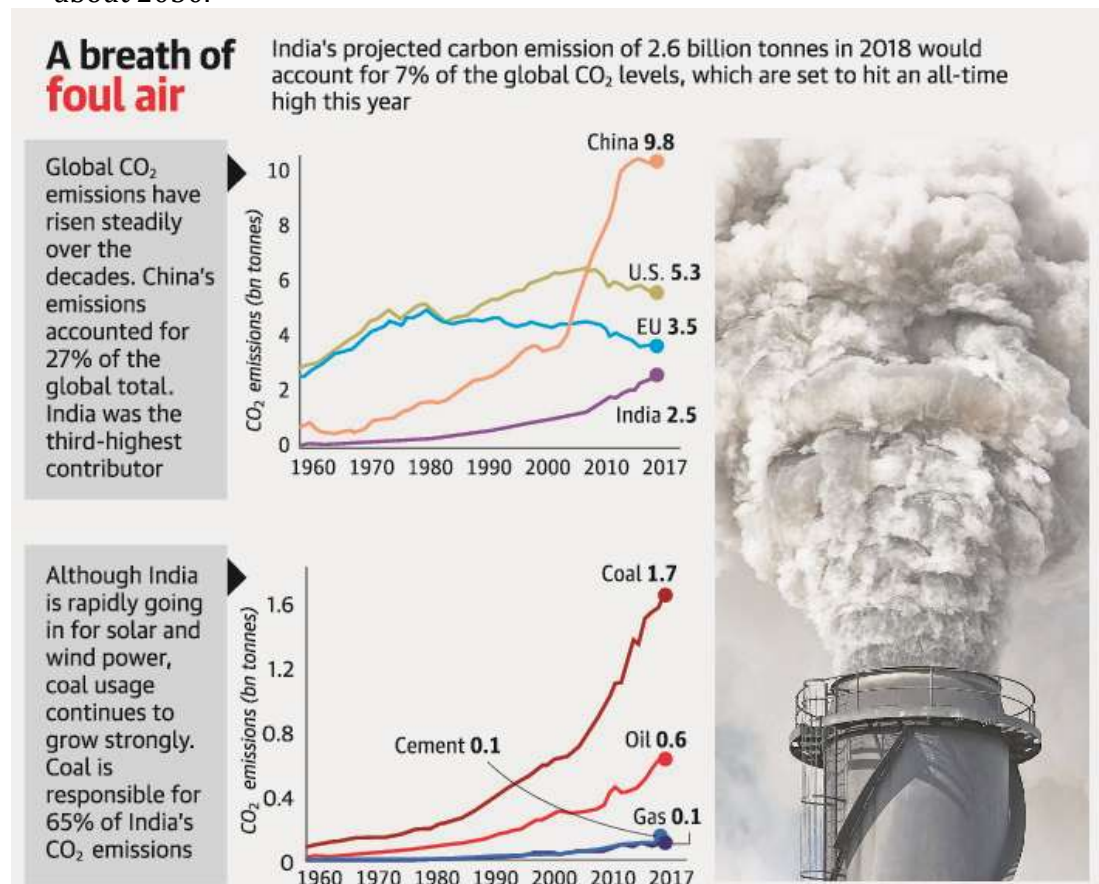
IN DEPTH:

- The Global Carbon Project (GCP) was established in 2001. The organisation seeks to quantify global carbon emissions and their causes. GCP is a core project of IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme).
- Established by the GCP in 2013 the Global Carbon Atlas is a tool for the visualisation of data related to the global carbon cycle.
- U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP 24) Katowice, Poland will also focus on ways to equitably cut carbon emissions.

Concerns:

- The **10 biggest emitters in 2018** are China, U.S., India, Russia, Japan, Germany, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and Canada.
- The EU as a region of countries ranks third.
- China's emissions accounted for 27% of the global total, having grown an estimated 4.7% in 2018 and reaching a new all-time high.
- Emissions in the U.S., which has withdrawn from its commitment to the Paris Agreement, account for 15% of the global total, and look set to have grown about 2.5% in 2018 after several years of decline.

- Limiting global warming to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal (keeping the global temperature increase to well below 2°C), would need carbon dioxide emissions to decline by 50% by 2030 and reach net zero by about 2050.



Beach pollution

IN NEWS:

- In addition to air and water pollution, India can now add one more category to its pollution worries: **beach pollution**.

IN DEPTH:

According to a study by the **National Centre of Coastal Research (NCCR)**

- Tourism and fishing** contributing most of the plastic litter on beaches.
- Plastic litter** from tourism alone accounted for 40%-96% of all beach litter.
- Gopalpur in Odisha is the worst hit.
- After tourism, **fishing** was the next biggest source of litter. While fishing nets were a major contributor, the processing of fish on the beach also produced a lot of litter.
- Also, the proportion of **biomedical litter** was high in urban areas.
- September 15, 2018** is celebrated as **International Coastal Cleanup Day**.
- India needs a **national marine litter policy** to control and manage waste on land and prevent its entry into the marine environment.

Cast away

The maximum amount of plastic waste across beaches in India is contributed by tourists

Karwar, Karnataka

Fort Kochi Beach, Kerala

RK Beach, Visakhapatnam, A.P.

Gopalpur, Odisha

Andaman Islands

Elliot's Beach, Chennai



'Air pollution cause of 1 in 8 deaths'

IN NEWS:

- India has a disproportionately high 26% of the global premature deaths and disease burden due to air pollution.
- One in eight deaths in India was attributable to air pollution in India in 2017, making it a leading risk factor for death. (reduction in life expectancy associated with air pollution)

IN DEPTH:

- These research findings were published in The Lancet Planetary Health.
- 4 lakh deaths in India in 2017 were due to air pollution, which included 6.7 lakh deaths due to outdoor particulate matter air pollution and 4.8 lakh deaths due to household air pollution.
- In 2017, 77% population of India was exposed to ambient particulate matter PM2.5 above the recommended limit by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Highest PM2.5 exposure level was in Delhi, followed by the other north Indian States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana.

NGT order: Karnataka must set aside 500 cr. for Bengaluru lakes

IN NEWS:

- NGT orders Karnataka to set aside 500 cr. for cleaning up water bodies in Bengaluru.
- Lakes under danger – Bellandur, Agara and Varthur lakes

- The amount is to be utilised for execution of action plans to clean the water bodies.

IN DEPTH:

- Untreated sewage continued to flow into the water bodies “indiscriminately”.
- State government to deposit 50 crore to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as environmental compensation.

About ngt

National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (NGT)

NGT is an Act of the Parliament of India which enables creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.

It draws inspiration from the India's constitutional provision of Article 21, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.

Bioplastics may not be a viable alternative to plastic

IN NEWS:

- Bioplastics — often promoted as a climate-friendly alternative to petroleum-based plastics — may lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, according to a study.
- It may trigger cropland expansion, which will further increase greenhouse gas emissions.
- Plastics are usually made from petroleum, with the associated impacts in terms of fossil fuel depletion but also climate change.
- It is estimated that by 2050, plastics could already be responsible for 15% of the global CO2 emissions.

IN DEPTH:**Concerns:**

- Bioplastics, on the other hand, are in principle climate-neutral since they are based on renewable raw materials such as maize, wheat and sugarcane. These plants get the CO2 that they need from the air through their leaves.
- Producing bioplastics therefore consumes CO2, which compensates for the amount that is later released at end-of-life. Overall, their net greenhouse gas balance is assumed to be zero.
- Bioplastics are thus often consumed as an environmentally friendly alternative. However, at least with the current level of technology, this issue is probably not as clear as often assumed.
- The production of bioplastics in large amounts would change land use globally. This could potentially lead to an increase in the conversion of forest areas to arable land. However, forests absorb considerably more CO2 than maize or sugar cane annually, if only because of their larger biomass

House sparrow conservation through artificial nests

IN NEWS:

- Odisha's Ganjam district to become the first house sparrow-friendly district of Odisha.
- Artificial nests will reach all the 22 blocks of Ganjam district by the end of 2018.

IN DEPTH:

- As sparrows nest and lay eggs almost four times a year, an increase in their population at a particular village would encourage inhabitants of nearby villages to take up similar measures.
- Ganjam is the flag-bearer of sparrow conservation in the State.

- Apart from providing **protection to olive ridley turtles**, volunteers of the **Rushikulya Sea Turtle Protection Committee** had also started sparrow conservation through artificial nests at Purunabandha village in 2007.
- Sparrow conservation through artificial nests experiment has been replicated in 10 other Odisha districts and States including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand as well.
- IUCN Status: Least Concern

SC directs Centre to declare 10 km area around national parks as eco-sensitive

IN NEWS:

- Supreme Court directed the Union Environment Ministry to declare 10 km area around 21 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries across the country as 'eco-sensitive zones'.

IN DEPTH:

About Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)

Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are areas **notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

- The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of **"shock absorbers"** to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a **transition zone** from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- The new ESZ guidelines include a broad list of activities that could be allowed, promoted, regulated or promoted.
- The guidelines said activities, including commercial mining, setting of saw mills and industries causing pollution, commercial use of firewood and major hydro-power projects, are prohibited in such areas.
- It also **prohibits tourism** activities like flying over protected areas in an aircraft or hot air balloon, and **discharge of effluents** and solid waste in natural water bodies or terrestrial areas.
- Felling of trees, drastic change in agriculture systems and commercial use of natural water resources, including groundwater harvesting and setting up of hotels and resorts, are the activities regulated in the areas.
- Activities permitted in the areas include ongoing agriculture and horticulture practices by local communities, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, adoption of green technology and use of renewable energy sources.
- The width of the ESZ and type of regulation may vary from protected area to area. However, as a general principle, the width of the ESZ could go up to **10 kms around the protected area**.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT

- The rules for the ESZ or the Eco-Fragile Zones are **based on the Environment Protection Act, 1986**. However, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones".
- The Act says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.

Migratory birds at Chilika face flu threat

IN NEWS:

- Lakhs of migratory birds at Chilika are facing a threat to their lives following the detection of **avian influenza virus** barely a few kilometres away from the **Nalabana Bird Sanctuary**.
- Samples have tested positive for **H5N1 virus**.

IN DEPTH:

Avian influenza

- Avian influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.
- These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species.
- Avian flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with avian flu viruses have occurred.

DEFENCE

Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (PCCoSC)

IN NEWS:

- The three services – Army, Navy and Air Force – are taking steps to improve ‘jointmanship’ and have agreed on the appointment of a Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- The PCCoSC is envisaged as a single-point military adviser to the government.

IN DEPTH:

- The permanent chairman, CoSC will be a four-star officer, who will be equivalent to chiefs of army, airforce and navy.
- He would look into joint issues of the services like training of troops, acquisition of weapon systems and joint operations of the services.
- The officer would also be in-charge of the tri-services command at Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the strategic command of nuclear weapons along with the upcoming cyber and space command.
- The Naresh Chandra Task Force, formed in May 2011 to review the national security management system, recommended the creation of permanent post of chairman, chiefs of staff committee (CoSC).

Grigorovich-class frigates in 3 years

IN NEWS:

- The first of the four **Admiral Grigorovich-class guided missile stealth frigates** is likely to be inducted into the Indian Navy in the next three years.
- Rear Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi says two will be built in Russia and two in Goa.

- The 4,000-odd tonne frigates can be armed with Brahmos cruise missile system, array of weapon system that include artillery guns, strike missile and radar-controlled air defence systems with provisions for torpedo tubes.

IN DEPTH:**Russia-India defence cooperation**

- **INDRA-NAVY-18** – bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Federation Navy.
- **Two Sindhughosh-class submarines**, reportedly **Sindhukesari** and **Sindhuraj**, are undergoing medium refit at a shipyard in Russia.
- A second **Akula-class nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN)** may be leased to India by the Russian Federation Navy.
- India already operates a leased **Akula-class SSN, INS Chakra**, which is based at Eastern Naval Command.
- **‘Cope India 2018’** – U.S. and India joint air exercises

India gets submarine rescue system**IN NEWS:**

- Indian Navy joined a select group of naval forces in the world when it inducted its **first non-tethered Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) system** at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai.
- In March 2016, the Indian Navy had signed a ₹2,000 crore contract with the **U.K.-based James Fisher Defence (JFD)** for two submarine rescue systems as well as maintenance for 25 years.
- This project is yet another milestone in the **defence partnership between India and the United Kingdom**.

IN DEPTH:

- The DSRV is used to **rescue crew members from submarines** stranded under water in the high seas.
- The DSRV can be operated at a **depth of 650 metres** and can **rescue 14 people at a time**.
- The **DSRV can also be transported by air**, enabling it to conduct rescue operations across the globe.
- The Indian Navy currently operates five different classes of submarines.

Rough and tough

The flyaway Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System can be operated in very rough conditions with wave height of 4 to 6 metres

Maximum operating depth:

650 metres

12-18 hours

Endurance time

17 Total
passenger capacity

3 No. of crew members

14 No. of persons that
can be rescued at a time

₹1,000 crore
cost of one system



Deep dive: The Submarine Rescue System being launched in Mumbai on Wednesday. ■ PTI

Submarine strength

Indian Navy has five classes of submarines now and more are in the process of being inducted

• Scorpene Class - **1**

• Russian Kilo Class - **9**

• German HDW - **4**

• Nuclear attack submarine from Russia - **1**

• Indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine INS Arihant - **1**

'NSG must have its own air wing'

IN NEWS:

- A Parliamentary panel has recommended that the Centre urgently take steps to ensure that the National Security Guard (NSG) is equipped with its own dedicated air wing.
- Currently, the two Mi-17 helicopters procured by the NSG in 1988-99, were grounded and unavailable.
- Ministry of Home Affairs should make urgent and sincere efforts to commission a dedicated Air Wing of NSG and provide requisite types and number of air assets to strengthen the aviation capability of the force.

IN DEPTH:

About National Security Guard (NSG)

- National Security Guard (NSG) — is the country's premier counter-terrorist and contingency force.
- The NSG was raised in 1986 following the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Operation Blue Star.
- The force, which is trained to operate as an elite urban anti-terrorist and anti-hijack force, doesn't have a cadre of its own or direct recruitment and is instead dependent on personnel sent on deputation from the army and the central armed police forces.

INTERNAL SECURITY

NSCN(K) faction asks Centre to revive ceasefire

IN NEWS:

- A breakaway faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang), led by Khango Konyak asks Centre to revive ceasefire.
- Recently NSCN(IM) cadre was killed – A hardcore cadre of the Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (Issac-Muivah) was killed in an encounter with security forces in Arunachal Pradesh.

IN DEPTH:

About National Socialist Council of Nagaland

- NSCN is a Greater Naga Revolutionist, Christian Naga nationalist insurgent group operating mainly in Northeast India, with minor activities in northwest Myanmar until 2012.
- The main goal of the organisation is to establish a sovereign Naga state, “Nagalim”, which would consist of all the areas inhabited by the Naga people in Northeast India and Northwest Myanmar.
- According to the NSCN manifesto, their slogan is “Nagaland for Christ”.
- The group is accused of kidnapping, assassination, forced conversion and committing terrorist activities.
- Two major factions of NSCN include NSCN (K), led by Khaplang; and NSCN (I-M), led by Isak Chishi Swu and Thuingaleng Muviah.
- India’s Ministry of Home Affairs labeled NSCN a major insurgent group.
- On November 6, 2015 in response to an attack on an army convoy in Manipur India designated The NSCN (K) a terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.