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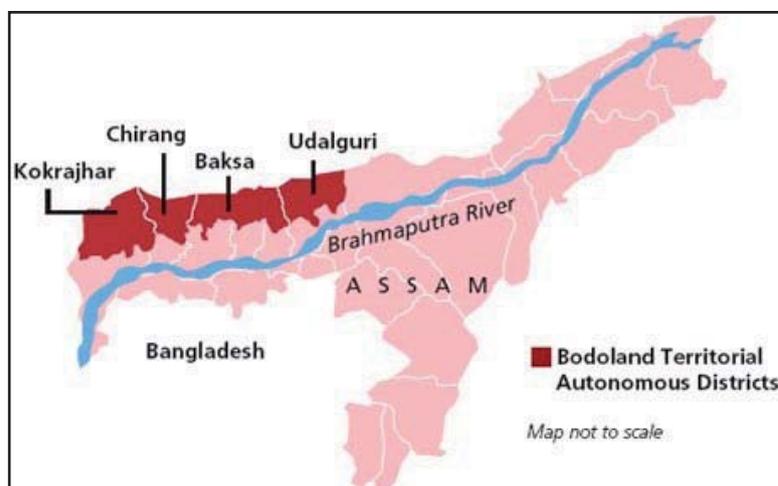
High Level committee to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord Several demands of Bodos

CONTEXT

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the setting up of a High Level Committee for implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.

ABOUT

- After Assam agitation of 1979-1985, Assam Accord was signed on 15th August, 1985. Clause 6 of the Assam Accord envisaged that appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
- However, it has been felt that Clause 6 of the Assam Accord has not been fully implemented even almost 35 years after the Accord was signed. The Cabinet, therefore, approved the setting up of a High Level Committee to suggest constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards as envisaged in Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- The Committee shall examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.
- The Committee will hold discussions with all stakeholders and assess the required quantum of reservation of seats in Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for Assamese people.
- The Committee will also assess the requirement of measures to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam, quantum of reservation in employment under Government of Assam and other measures to protect, preserve and promote cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assamese people.
- It is expected that the setting up of the Committee will pave the way for the implementation of the Assam Accord in letter and spirit and will help fulfil longstanding expectations of the Assamese people.
- The Cabinet also approved a number of measures to fulfil the outstanding issues related to the Bodo community. The Bodo Accord was signed in 2003 which resulted in the establishment of a Bodoland Territorial Council under Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. However, there have been representations from different organizations of Bodos to fulfil various outstanding demands.
- The Cabinet today approved the establishment of a Bodo Museum-cum-language and cultural study center, modernization of existing All India Radio Station and Doordarshan Kendra at Kokrajhar and naming a Superfast Train passing through BTAD as ARONAI Express.
- The State Government will also take necessary measures related to appropriate land policy and land laws, besides setting up of Institutions for Research and Documentation of Customs, Traditions and Languages of indigenous communities.



Who are bodos?

- The Bodos, an ethno-linguistic group believed to be the earliest inhabitants of Assam, are one of the Indo-Mongoloid communities belonging to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. At the zenith of their thriving civilisation, they ruled vast territories encompassing almost the entirety of northeast India, parts of Nepal, Bhutan, North Bengal and Bangladesh. The Bodos are recognized as a *plains tribe* in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

What is Assam accord?

- The Assam Accord (1985) was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in New Delhi on 15 August 1985. A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) in 1979. It culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord.
- The accord brought an end to the Assam Movement and paved the way for the leaders of the agitation to form a political party and form a government in the state of Assam soon after.
- Though the accord brought an end to the agitation, some of the key clauses are yet to be implemented, which has kept some of the issues festering.

Bodo Accord:

- In 2003 – Bodo militants lay down the arms and want to join mainstream and they signed agreement with Government, known as "Bodo Accord".
- A BTC (*Bodoland Territorial Council*) created under 6th Schedule of the Constitution has been given legislative powers over 40 subjects.
- BTAD (*Bodoland Territorial Area District*) created in 2003.

Problems in the Bodo Accord:

- The demand for a separate state is being justified on the basis of protecting the indigenous population of the BTAD which itself is contested.
- The Bodos have portrayed themselves as the most rightful representatives of the BTAD. The BTC (Bodoland Territorial Council) is predominantly Bodo, as per the provisions of the Bodo Accord of 2003, but the BTAD areas do not have a homogenous demographic profile.
- In fact, some villages of the BTAD are inhabited by a significantly larger number of non-Bodos than Bodos. Thus, the non-Bodo and Muslim communities feel under-represented at the BTC, and have recorded their displeasure at the inequity in distribution of resources and lack of administrative powers.
- In addition, the territorial nature of the problem creates artificial boundaries in a naturally heterogeneous state and links ethnicity to land, leading to competing claims.

2

Amalgamation of Vijaya, Dena and Bank of Baroda

CONTEXT

- Cabinet approves first-ever three way merger in Indian Banking with amalgamation of Vijaya, Dena and Bank of Baroda.

ABOUT

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the scheme of

amalgamation for amalgamating Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank, with Bank of Baroda as the transferee bank and Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank as transferor banks.

- The amalgamation will be the first-ever three-way consolidation of banks in India, with the amalgamated bank being India's second largest Public Sector Bank.
- The amalgamation will help create a strong globally competitive bank with economies of scale and enable realisation of wide-ranging synergies. Leveraging of networks, low-cost deposits and subsidiaries of the three banks has the potential of yielding significant synergies for positioning the consolidated entity for substantial rise in customer base, market reach, operational efficiency, wider bouquet of products and services, and improved access for customers.

Key points of the Scheme of amalgamation:

- Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank are transferor banks and BoB is transferee bank.
- The scheme shall come into force on 1.4.2019.
- Upon commencement of the scheme, the undertakings of the transferor banks as a going concern shall be transferred to and shall vest in the transferee bank, including, inter alia, all business, assets, rights, titles, claims, licenses, approvals and other privileges and all property, all borrowings, liabilities and obligations.
- Every permanent and regular officer or employee of the transferor banks shall become an officer or employee and shall hold his office or service therein in the transferee bank such that the pay and allowance offered to the employees/officers of transferor banks shall not be less favourable as compared to what they would have drawn in the respective transferor bank.
- The Board of the transferee bank shall ensure that the interests of all transferring employees and officers of the transferor bank are protected.
- The transferee bank shall issue shares to the shareholders of transferor banks as per share exchange ratio. Shareholders of the transferee bank and transferor banks shall be entitled to raise their grievances, if any, in relation to the share exchange ratio, through an expert committee.

Some of the strengths of the envisaged amalgamated entity are:

- The amalgamated bank will be better equipped in the changing environment to meet the credit needs of a growing economy, absorb shocks and capacity to raise resources. Economies of scale and wider scope would position it for improved profitability, wider product offerings, and adoption of technology and best practices across amalgamating entities for cost efficiency and improved risk management, and financial inclusion through wider reach.
- It would also enable creation of a bank with scale comparable to global banks and capable of competing effectively in India and globally.
- Strengths of individual banks - such as Dena Bank's relatively higher access to low-cost CASA deposits, Vijaya Bank's profitability and availability of capital for growth, and the extensive and global network and offerings of BoB will translate into advantages in terms of market reach, operational efficiencies and the ability to support a wider offering of product and services.
- The amalgamated banks will have access to a wider talent pool, and a large database that may be leveraged through analytics for competitive advantage in a rapidly digitalising banking context. Benefits would also flow as a result of wider reach and distribution network and reduction in distribution costs for the products and services through subsidiaries.
- Public at large shall benefit in terms of enhanced access to banking services through a stronger network, the ability to support a wider offering of product and services, and easy access to credit.

3

Restructuring of National Health Agency as “National Health Authority”

CONTEXT

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister approved the restructuring of existing National Health Agency as “National Health Authority” for better implementation of Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

ABOUT

- With this approval, the existing society “National Health Agency” has been dissolved and will be replaced by National Health Authority as an attached office to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- The National Health Authority would be empowered with full autonomy, accountability and the mandate to implement PM-JAY through an efficient, effective and transparent decision-making process by aligning the accountability with responsibility.
- The National Health Authority would be chaired by Union Health Minister and have representation from the Government and domain experts.

The reasons for restructuring as an authority are:

- To enable faster decision-making.
- Replacing the multi-layered structure with a simplified structure.
- Authority will be able to specify treatment protocols and enforce their compliance.
- The Authority with a stronger mandate would be able to prevent, detect and control frauds, abuse and redress grievances, thus resulting in the reduction of leakages.

It is envisaged that the National Health Authority shall have full accountability, authority and mandate to implement PM-JAY through an efficient, effective and transparent decision-making process.

Pradhan Mantri - Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- ▶ The programme is being touted as the world’s largest health protection scheme. The scheme has two pillars under it –
 - **Ayushman Bharat (AB)** - 5 lakhs health sub-centres will be converted into health and wellness centres.
 - **National Health Protection Mission (NHPM)** - Provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family, per annum, reaching out to 50 crore beneficiaries.
- ▶ The benefits of the scheme are portable across the country for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- ▶ Also, a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.
- ▶ Coverage - The scheme will aim to target over 10 crore families based on SECC (Socio-Economic Caste Census) database.
- ▶ It will target poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers’ families.
- ▶ It will cover 1,300 illnesses, including serious ones such as cancer and heart diseases.
- ▶ Private hospitals would also be part of the scheme.

- ▶ To ensure that nobody from the vulnerable group is left out of the benefit cover, there will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme.
- ▶ The insurance scheme will cover pre and post-hospitalisation expenses, including pre-existing illnesses.
- ▶ Funding - The expenditure incurred in premium payment will be shared between central and state governments in a specified ratio –
 - 60:40 for all states and UTs with their own legislature.
 - 90:10 in Northeast states and the three Himalayan states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand.
 - 100 per cent central funding for UTs without legislature.
- ▶ The states are also free to continue with their own health programmes.
- ▶ Mode of funding - In a trust model, bills are reimbursed directly by the government.
- ▶ Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim and Chandigarh are the states that will use a trust model for the mission.
- ▶ In an insurance model, the government pays a fixed premium to an insurance company, which pays the hospitals.
- ▶ Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have opted for mixed mode implementation.

4

Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme**CONTEXT**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of Rastriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme for the period 2017-18 to 2019-2020 with budget outlay of Rs.1160 crore as recommended by EFC.

Features:

- During 12th FYP period, in rationalization exercise undertaken in consultation with Ministry of Finance and NITI Aayog, the eight schemes were brought under the umbrella scheme of Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram as sub-schemes.
- This has helped in achieving better synergies between the Schemes and thereby, improves their effectiveness and help in achieving better outcomes with the available resources.
- The Scheme beneficiaries are the youth in the age-group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'youth' in the National Youth Policy, 2014. In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the age-group is 10-19 years.

Following are eight sub-schemes under Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram:

- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan(NYKS);
- National Youth Corps (NYC);
- National Programme for Youth & Adolescent Development (NPYAD);
- International Cooperation;
- Youth Hostels (YH);

- Assistance to Scouting & Guiding Organizations;
- National Discipline Scheme (NDS); and
- National Young Leaders Programme (NYLP).

BACKGROUND

- The Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and has been continuing since 12th Five Year Plan.
- The Scheme aims to develop the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities.

5 Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions

CONTEXT

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for continuation of five schemes under the "Umbrella Scheme for Family Welfare and Other Health Interventions" during the Fourteenth Finance Commission period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

BENEFITS

- Social Marketing of Contraceptives, and free Supply of Contraceptives are specifically targeted towards low income group people. However, the overall scheme is not restricted to any particular group or category and has a mandate to cover the population throughout India.

IMPACTS

- The five schemes listed in the proposal are crucial to attaining the goals and objectives laid out in National Health Policy (NHP) 2017, and international commitments in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The scheme has a very ambitious target of improving health seeking behaviour of the population through increased awareness and enhanced uptake of health services.
- The other components as HSHR would assist in keeping a tab on the progress of entire set of health programmes/schemes run by Government of India, assisting in timely course corrections.
- The free and social marketing of contraceptives will enable better child and mother health, besides population stabilisation.

Implementation strategy and targets:

- The target is to support the key goals of the National Health Policy 2017 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which India is a signatory.
- The attempt through Media / IEC outreach is to move from care for sickness to the concept of wellness by using 360 degree approach in conventional and social media.
- The target of the free distribution and social marketing of contraceptives is to improve the Modern Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (mCPR), help Family Planning and reach population stabilization. The target for NFHS is to provide reliable data on all health indicators.

All the five schemes are Central Sector Schemes with 100% funding from Central Government. These are as follows:

- Swastha Nagrik Abhiyan (SNA): For dissemination of information on health issues to create awareness among citizens of India of all age/sex/locations and appropriately influence their health seeking behaviour to encourage healthy lifestyles and empower the citizens. SNA has been approved, with an estimated outlay of Rs. 1030 crores for three years.

- Free Supply of Contraceptives: For providing free supply of contraceptives including condoms, Oral Contraceptive Pills, Pregnancy Test Kits, other contraceptives, etc. to States with a view to improve Maternal and Child Health and achieving population stabilization.
- MIS Scheme now proposed as Health Surveys and Health Research (HSHR): For sourcing of data on population, health and nutrition for India and its States including through periodically conducted National Family Health Survey, which is one of the largest surveys of its kind worldwide. The NFHS provides valuable data for policy and programmes right up to the district level.
- Social Marketing of Contraceptives: For branding, attractively packaging, marketing and selling of products and services related to Family Planning for low-income groups at affordable prices.
- Population Research Centres (PRCs): For third party evaluation of the scheme on PRCs and specially of those centres which are being considered for continuation will be carried out.

6 Children Science Congress

CONTEXT

- Nobel Laureates inaugurated Children Science Congress at the Indian Science Congress, 2019.

ABOUT

- Rashtriya Kishore Vaigyanik Sammelan (RKVS)/ Children Science Congress is an important part of Indian Science Congress as it focuses on raising the bar of research and innovation in science in our country.
- The main objective of the RKVS is to provide a platform to the budding scientists to showcase their research work and projects being developed by them.
- The event will consist of invited talks by renowned scientists and various competitions such as science exhibitions, scientific quizzes. Workshops are being conducted to give the students hands on experience.

Indian Science Congress (ISCA)

- The first meeting of ISCC was held in January 1914 in Asiatic Society, Kolkata. It meets annually in the first week of January.
- ISCA works under Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology (Government of India).
- The two British chemists, namely, Professor J. L. Simonsen and Professor P. S. MacMahon thought that scientific research in India might be stimulated if an annual meeting of research workers somewhat on the lines of the British Association for the Advancement of Science could be arranged. This led to the establishment of the Indian Science Congress Association and the annual session of the Indian Science Congress.
- The 105th edition of ISC was held at Manipur Central University in Imphal, Manipur with theme "Reaching the Unreached Through Science & Technology."
- The 106th Indian Science Congress was held at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Jalandhar, Punjab in January 2019.

7 Time Capsule

CONTEXT

- Time Capsule buried to preserve for 100 years to give glimpse of today's technology for future generations.

ABOUT

- The Time Capsule contains 100 items that represent modern-day technology as experienced in India. Besides replicas of *Mangalyaan*, *Brahmos Missile* and *Tejas* fighter jet representing India's scientific prowess, the Capsule contains laptop, landline phone, smart phone, drone, VR glasses, stopwatch, Amazon Alexa etc.
- It also includes consumer durables like air filter, induction cooktop, air fryer etc which are part of our day-to-day life.
- Some other products preserved are solar panels, hard disk with latest documentaries and movies and current science books being used for teaching class 12 students and a mirror-less camera.
- The Capsule made by students from various departments of Lovely Professional University, was buried at a depth of 10 feet and will remain buried for the next 100 years. A plaque has been erected wherein it has been written that the Time Capsule will be opened on 3rd January, 2119.

8

Open Acreage Licensing Programme

CONTEXT

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched NIO and MRSC for Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) Bid Round-II.

ABOUT

- In this bid round, 14 E&P blocks, with an area of approximately 30,000 sq. km., are being offered for bidding to the investor community under the investor friendly HELP regime.
- 10 blocks are based on Expressions of Interest submitted by the bidders, and 4 blocks have been carved out by the Government based on data received through the National Seismic Programme and the Resource Reassessment Study carried out by the Government.
- Almost 60,000 sq km area was offered under OALP Bid round I and 30,000 sq km more is being offered under the second round, while the third round is almost ready.
- Earlier the decision about exploration was based on the potential Government revenue, but didn't yield many results. Now, the Government is working to increase production. For this purpose, IOR/EOR has been announced; production enhancement contract model is being worked out.
- The first bidding round under OALP (Bid Round I) was launched in January 2018 and closed in May 2018 and 55 blocks covering 59,282 sq. km. area were awarded in October 2018. The Government is also in advanced stages of finalizing the OALP Bid Round III with approximately 32,000 sq. km. of area and the bidding is expected to be launched within next few weeks.

The Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH)

- ▶ It is the Indian governmental regulatory body under the Gas. The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) was established in 1993 under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas through Government of India Resolution. Objectives of DGH are to promote sound management of the oil and natural gas resources having a balanced regard for environment, safety, technological and economic aspects of the petroleum activity.

Open Acreage Licensing (OALP)

- ▶ OALP gives an option to a company to select the exploration blocks on its own, without waiting for the formal bid round from the Government.
- ▶ Under OALP, a bidder intending to explore hydrocarbons may apply to the Government seeking exploration of any new block which was not already covered by exploration.

- ▶ The Government will examine the interest and if it is suitable for award, then the govt will call for competitive bids after obtaining necessary environmental and other clearances.
- ▶ OALP was introduced as part of the new fiscal regime in exploration sector called Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).
- ▶ So that, it will enable a faster survey and coverage of the available geographical area which has potential for oil and gas discovery.
- ▶ Successful implementation of OALP requires building of National Data Repository on geo-scientific data.

Hydrocarbon exploration and licensing policy, 2016 (HELP)

- ▶ It is the new exploration and production policy of the Government of India in the hydrocarbon sector. The government adopted the HELP in March 2016 in place of the New Exploration Licensing Policy 1997 (NELP) includes:
 - Uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon such as coal bed methane, shale gas and oil, tight gas and gas hydrates.
 - an open acreage policy that allows companies to select the exploration blocks on their own without waiting for the formal bidding round from the government.
 - Easy to administer revenue sharing model as the government needs to audit only the production and revenue of companies (not costs). The subjective criterion of cost recovery has ended.
 - Marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced.

National Data Repository (NDR)

- ▶ It is a data bank that seeks to preserve and promote a country's natural resources data, particularly data related to the petroleum exploration and production (E&P) sector.
- ▶ A National Data Repository is normally established by an entity that governs, controls and supports the exchange, capture, transference and distribution of E&P information, with the final target to provide the State with the tools and information to assure the growth, governability, control, independence and sovereignty of the industry.
- ▶ The two fundamental reasons for a country to establish an NDR are to preserve data generated inside the country by the industry, and to promote investments in the country by utilizing data to reduce the exploration, production, and transportation business risks.
- ▶ Countries take different approaches towards preserving and promoting their natural resources data. The approach varies according to a country's natural resources policies, level of openness, and its attitude towards foreign investment.

9

Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes Groups (PVTG)

CONTEXT

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implemented a scheme namely "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribes Groups (PVTG)" for the welfare of PVTGs.

ABOUT

- This is a demand driven scheme. The scheme is flexible as it enables the States/Union Territory (UT) to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment while retaining the culture and heritage of the community by adopting habitat development approach and intervening in all spheres of their social and economic life.

- Activities under the scheme include housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, animal husbandry, construction of link roads, culture, installation of non-conventional sources of energy for lighting purpose, social security or any other innovative activity meant for the comprehensive socio-economic development of PVTGs.
- The activities/projects sanctioned under the scheme differ from state to state depending on demand raised by respective State Governments/UT.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

- The PVTGs are the marginalized section of the Scheduled tribes of India. They are a section who is relatively isolated, educationally and socio-economically backward, living in a habitat far away from amenities.
- PVTGs is not a Constitutional category, nor are these constitutionally recognized communities.
- It is a government of India classification created with the purpose of enabling improvement in the conditions of certain communities with particularly low development.

The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:

- A pre-agriculture level of technology;
- A stagnant or declining population;
- Extremely low literacy; and
- A subsistence level of economy.

State /UT	PVTG
Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	Bodo Gadaba, Bondo Poroja, Chenchu, Dongria Khond, Gutob Gadaba, Khond Poroja, Kolam, Kondareddis, Konda Savaras, Kutia Khond, Parengi Poroja, Thoti
Bihar and Jharkhand	Asurs, Birhor, Birjia, Hill Kharia, Konvas, Mal Paharia, Parhaiyas, Sauda Paharia, Sawvar
Jharkhand	Same as above
Gujarat	Kathodi, Kohvalia, Padhar, Siddi, Kolgha
Karnataka	Jenu Kuruba, Koraga
Kerala	Cholanaikayan (a section of Kattunaickans), Kadar, Kattunayakan, Kurumbas, Koraga
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	Abujh Macias, Baigas, Bharias, Hill Korbas, Kamars, Saharias, Birhor
Chhattisgarh	Same as above
Maharashtra	Katkaria (Kathodia), Kolam, Maria Gond
Manipur	Marram Nagas
Odisha	Birhor, Bondo, Didayi, Dongria-Khond, Juangs, Kharias, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Sauras, Lodhas, Mankidias, Paudi Bhuyans, Soura, Chuktia Bhunjia
Rajasthan	Seharias
Tamil Nadu	Kattu Nayakans, Kotas, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyans, Todas

Tripura	Reangs
Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	Buxas, Rajis
West Bengal	Birhor, Lodhas, Totos
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese, Shorn Pens

10 Modernization of Police Force

BACKGROUND

- 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. Therefore, equipping of police forces is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. However, the States have not been able to modernize and equip their police forces up to the desired level due to financial constraints.

Steps taken by the government in this regard

- It is in this context that the Ministry of Home Affairs has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for equipping and modernizing their police forces under the scheme of 'Assistance to States for Modernisation of Police' [erstwhile scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF)]. Under this scheme, the States have been providing central assistance for acquisition of latest weaponry, training gadgets, advanced communication and forensic equipment etc.
- Jammu & Kashmir, insurgency affected North Eastern States and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts have also been provided assistance for purchase of operational vehicles and for construction of police building, etc.
- The Crime and Criminal Network and Systems (CCTNS) has been rolled out nationally and as on 30.11.2018, it has been deployed in 14,764 police stations out of 15,705 police stations in the country.
- As on 30.11.2018, 14,724 police stations are entering all (100%) FIRs on the CCTNS software. 2.25 crores FIRs have been registered on CCTNS and 3.9 crore legacy records have been digitized (as on 30.11.2018). 12,153 police stations have been provided national level search on Crime and Criminal Data of CCTNS through Digital Police Portal.
- The Government of India assists States and UT administrations in combating cyber-crimes by providing financial grants under various schemes and issuing advisories.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has also approved a scheme titled 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to deal with all types of cybercrime in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

11

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill - 2019

CONTEXT

- In a landmark decision, the Lok Sabha passed "The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill - 2019". The Bill has been formulated recognizing the need for regulation of the use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology, for establishing identity of missing persons, victims, offenders, under trials and unknown deceased persons.

ABOUT

- The purpose of this Bill is to expand the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country.
- The utility of DNA based technologies for solving crimes, and to identify missing persons, is well recognized across the world.
- By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that with the proposed expanded use of this technology in this country, there is also the assurance that the DNA test results are reliable, and furthermore that the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.

The key components of this Bill include:

- Establishment of a DNA Regulatory Board.
- Accreditation of DNA laboratories undertaking DNA testing and analysing.
- Establishment of the National and Regional DNA Data Banks, as envisaged in the Bill, will assist in forensic investigations. This will aid in scientific up-gradation and streamlining of the DNA testing activities in the country with appropriate inputs from the DNA Regulatory Board which would be set up for the purpose.
- The Bill will add value in empowering the criminal justice delivery system by enabling the application of DNA evidence, which is considered the gold standard in crime investigations.

12

Introduction of a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of the Scheduled Tribes in the State of Karnataka

Gist of Bill

- On the basis of recommendation of State of Karnataka, it is proposed to amend Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 relating to Karnataka to grant Scheduled Tribe status to and to include the communities, namely
 - "Parivara and Talawara as Synonyms of 'Nayaka' at Sl. No.38 and
 - "Siddi" community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts along with existing 'Siddi' community of Uttar Kannada district at Sl. No. 50, in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka.

BACKGROUND

- The first specification of Scheduled Tribes in relation to a particular State or Union territory is by a notified Order of the President, after consultation with the State Government / UT concerned.
- Any subsequent inclusion in or exclusion from and other modifications in the list of Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an amending Act of Parliament.

Major Impact

- This will fulfill the long term demand of 'Parivara' and 'Talawara' communities for granting Scheduled Tribes status in the State of Karnataka.
- The demand of 'Siddi' community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts for granting Scheduled Tribes status along with the existing 'Siddi' community of Uttar Kannada district will also be fulfilled.
- The persons belonging to "Parivara' and 'Talawara' communities as well as 'Siddi' community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts will be eligible to get the Scheduled Tribe certificate from the State of Karnataka and will also be eligible for all benefits meant for the Scheduled Tribes in the State.

13 3 New AIIMS**CONTEXT**

- Cabinet approves setting up of 3 new AIIMS to boost to healthcare infrastructure in the country.

ABOUT:**New AIIMS to come up at**

- Vijaynagar, Samba in Jammu
- Awantipur, Pulwama, Kashmir
- Rajkot, Gujarat

Impact:

- Setting up of new AIIMS would transform health education and training and address the shortfall of health care professionals in the region.
- The establishment of new AIIMS will serve the dual purpose of providing super speciality health care to the population.
- It will also help create a large pool of doctors and other health workers in this region that can be available for primary and secondary level institutions / facilities being created under National Health Mission (NHM).

Employment Generation:

- Setting up new AIIMS in Jammu & Kashmir and in Gujarat will lead to employment generation for nearly 3000 people in various faculty & non faculty posts in each of the AIIMS.
- Indirect employment generation will take place due to facilities & services like shopping centre, canteens, etc. coming in the vicinity of new AIIMS.
- The construction activity involved for creation of the physical infrastructure for the various new AIIMS is also expected to generate substantial employment in the construction phase as well.

BACKGROUND

- The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), a Central Sector Scheme, aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable tertiary healthcare facilities in different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served states in particular.

14 Representation of the People Act, 1951**CONTEXT**

- The Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner Sh. Umesh Sinha to review and suggest modifications and changes in the provisions of the Section 126 and other sections of the Representation of the People Act 1951, provisions of Model Code of Conduct and any other ECI instruction in this regard has submitted its report to the Commission.

The Committee had the following scope of work:

- Study and examine the present provisions of the Section 126 and other related Sections of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and identify difficulties/critical gaps to regulate the violation

of the said provisions of the act, particularly during the prohibitory period of 48 hours before the completion of the poll, mentioned in section 126 and suggest necessary amendment/modification.

- Examine the type, category or growth of communication technology or media platform in the country and difficulties in regulating these media platforms during multiphase election when prohibitory period of 48 hours are in force.
- Impact of new media platforms and social media during the prohibitory period of 48 hours before the close of poll and its implication in view of the provisions of section 126.
- Examine the present provisions of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) related to the above issues and suggest modification in this regard.

Recommendations

- Internet service providers and social media companies should take down content violating the 48-hour ban on campaigning prior to polling, instantly and latest within 3 hours of EC issuing such a direction.
- Amend Section 126(1) of R P Act to impose the "campaign silence period" on print, electronic media and intermediaries. The definition of intermediaries, as per Section 2(w) of the Information Technology Act, includes telecom service providers, internet service providers, web-hosting service providers, search engines, etc.
- Bring in changes in the model code of conduct to ensure that parties release their manifesto at least 72 hours prior to polling (or 72 hours prior to polling for first phase in a multi-phase election).
- Star campaigners should desist from addressing press conferences or giving interviews on election matters during silence period. Also, in a multi-phased election, there should be no direct or indirect reference seeking support for parties/candidates in constituencies observing silence period.
- Intermediaries should ensure that their platforms are not misused to vitiate free and fair polls. This would include a notification mechanism by which EC may notify the platform of potential violations of Section 126 of R P Act.
- While EC will appoint an officer to liaise with the intermediaries, the latter should open a special grievance redressal channel for EC and have a dedicated team during election period to interface with and take quick action on receipt of EC order to take down or disable content in violation of R P Act.
- Intermediaries should report to the Commission on measures taken to prevent abuse of their platforms, including generating publicly-available action taken reports. All political advertisements may be clearly labelled as such and be pre-approved by an EC-appointed content monitoring committee.
- The intermediaries would also need to maintain a repository of political advertisements with information on their sponsors, expenditure and targeted reach.
- The recommendations made by the Committee, when implemented (after adoption by the ECI with necessary modification or additions), will help in minimizing the possible interference of activities which aim at indirectly influencing voters during the valuable silence period of 48 hours provided to them.
- The recommendations of the Committee will be considered by the Commission in detail for follow up action.

Representation of People Act, 1951

- ▶ It is an act of Parliament of India to provide for the conduct of elections of the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses, the corrupt practices and other offences at or in connection with such elections and the decision of doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with such elections.
- ▶ It was introduced in Parliament by law minister Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

- ▶ The Act was enacted by the provisional parliament under Article 327 of Indian Constitution, before the first general election

Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951

- ▶ Section 126 of the Representation of the People, 1951, prohibits displaying any election matter by means, inter alia, of television or similar apparatus, during the period of 48 hours before the hour fixed for conclusion of poll in a constituency.

15

E-NAM

CONTEXT

- E-NAM has achieved milestone by commencing inter-State trade between mandis using e-payments.

ABOUT

- Earlier trade used to happen either within the APMC or between two APMCs situated within same state.
- The very first Inter State transaction in tomatoes has been carried out between trader of Bareilly e-NAM APMC of Uttar Pradesh and farmer of Haldwani e-NAM APMC of Uttarakhand. Similarly, the inter-State transactions in potatoes, brinjal & cauliflower have been carried out between the e-NAM mandis of Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh.
- In all the cases, e-payments have been made through e-NAM portal. This will help farmers get better market access, more buyers/ traders & realise better prices for their produce.
- To facilitate inter State trade between the e-NAM States, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, conducted series of coordination meetings with concerned States and Mandi board officials/ Mandi secretaries. As a result of these interactions, both the States have now facilitated licensing of traders of each other for inter-State trade on e-NAM portal.

E-NAM:

- E-NAM i.e. National Agriculture Market is a pan-India electronic trading (e-trading) portal which seeks to network the existing physical regulated wholesale market (known as APMC market) through a virtual platform to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
- E-NAM platform promotes better marketing opportunities for the farmers to sell their produce through online competitive and transparent price discovery system and online payment facility. It also promotes prices commensurate with quality of produce.
- The e-NAM portal provides single window services for all APMC related information and services. This includes commodity arrivals, quality & prices, buy & sell offers & e-payment settlement directly into farmers' account, among other services.
- Farmers can access the information on e-NAM easily through their mobile phones from anywhere. This online trading platform aims at reducing transaction costs, bridging information asymmetry and helps in expanding the market access for farmers.
- So far, 585 Regulated Markets of 16 States and 2 Union Territories have been integrated to e-NAM platform. Government has also decided to integrate additional 415 markets by March, 2020.
- "Logistic providers" information is also being provided in the e-NAM portal to traders from outside the State, which will facilitate transportation of commodities after trading. An Inter-State dashboard on e-NAM platform has been developed to promote inter State trade among e-NAM States.

16 Indus Food 2019

CONTEXT

- INDUS FOOD-II with the theme of 'World Food Supermarket' will be held on 14th and 15th January, 2019, at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida. The event is aimed at promoting India as a strong and reliable exporter of food and beverage products to the world.

ABOUT

- INDUS FOOD 2019 promoted value addition to India's agriculture exports and integrate Indian farmers and agricultural products with global value chains.
- With more than 700 buyers from 70 countries visited INDUS FOOD-II and more than 500 food suppliers, the event will lead to greater interaction of Indian exporters with global customers leading to enhanced product development and better price realization in international markets.
- The mega food event helps in bringing business opportunities to the doorstep of Indian producers and manufacturers and help small exporters, who cannot afford participation in overseas fairs, to have a direct interface with foreign buyers who visit India for this show.
- INDUS FOOD is a global platform where top exporters from Food and Beverage Industry of India participate and buyers from across the world have been invited.
- INDUS FOOD is a platform of its kind exclusively devoted to enhancing Indian exports in Food and Beverage (F&B) sector.
- It enables B2B engagements of buyers and suppliers, after careful business matchmaking, which takes care of precise business requirements of each participant, and enables him to pick and choose whom to meet.

17 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

CONTEXT

- A time bound national level strategy for pan India implementation to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner in the form of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in New Delhi.

ABOUT

- Today cities occupy just 3% of the land, but contribute to 82% of GDP and responsible for 78% of Carbon dioxide emissions; cities though are engines of growth and equity but they have to be sustainable and it is in this context that NCAP being a very inclusive program holds special relevance.
- Taking into account the available international experiences and national studies, the tentative national level target of 20%–30% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by 2024 is proposed under the NCAP taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.
- Overall objective of the NCAP is comprehensive mitigation actions for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting the air quality monitoring network across the country and strengthening the awareness and capacity building activities
- The NCAP will be a mid-term, five-year action plan with 2019 as the first year. However, the international experiences and national studies indicate that significant outcome in terms of air pollution initiatives are visible only in the long-term, and hence the programme may be further

extended to a longer time horizon after a mid-term review of the outcomes.

- The approach for NCAP includes collaborative, multi-scale and cross-sectoral coordination between the relevant central ministries, state governments and local bodies. Dovetailing of the existing policies and programmes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and other initiatives of Government of India in reference to climate change will be done while execution of NCAP.
- There will be use of the Smart Cities program to launch the NCAP in the 43 smart cities falling in the list of the 102 non-attainment cities.
- The NCAP is envisaged to be dynamic and will continue to evolve based on the additional scientific and technical information as they emerge.
- The NCAP will be institutionalized by respective ministries and will be organized through inter-sectoral groups, which include, Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, NITI Aayog, CPCB, experts from the industry, academia, and civil society.
- The program will partner with multilateral and bilateral international organizations, and philanthropic foundations and leading technical institutions to achieve its outcomes.
- City specific action plans are being formulated for 102 non-attainment cities identified for implementing mitigation actions under NCAP. Cities have already prepared action plans in consultation with CPCB. Institutional Framework at Centre and State Level comprising of Apex Committee at the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in the Centre and at Chief Secretary Level in the States are to be constituted.
- In addition, sectoral working groups, national level Project Monitoring Unit, Project Implementation Unit, state level project monitoring unit, city level review committee under the Municipal Commissioner and DM level Committee in the Districts are to be constituted under NCAP for effective implementation and success of the Programme.
- Other features of NCAP include, increasing number of monitoring stations in the country including rural monitoring stations, technology support, emphasis on awareness and capacity building initiatives, setting up of certification agencies for monitoring equipment, source apportionment studies, emphasis on enforcement, specific sectoral interventions etc.



18

Development of Spiritual Circuit: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple-Aranmula-Sabarimala

CONTEXT

- Prime Minister inaugurated the project "Development of Spiritual Circuit: Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple-Aranmula-Sabarimala" in Kerala.

ABOUT

- The project 'Development of Spiritual Circuit: Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple-Aranmula-Sabarimala' was sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism in 2016-17.
- The Sree Padmanabaswamy Temple is one of the 108 divyadesams of Lord Vishnu.
- The temple witnesses huge footfall throughout the year. However, the temple precinct did not establish a sense of arrival to the revered destination nor were the amenities sufficient to cater to the tourists.
- Under this project, the Ministry has developed and rejuvenated the temple and its surroundings keeping in mind the factors of heritage and socio-cultural aspects.

Swadesh Darshan scheme

- ▶ It was launched by Union Tourism Ministry with objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.
- ▶ Under this scheme, 13 thematic circuits have been identified for development. They are Buddhist Circuit, North-East India Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.
- ▶ It is 100% centrally funded scheme for project components undertaken for public funding. It also has provision for leveraging voluntary funding under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector.
- ▶ The funding of projects under this scheme varies from state to state. It is finalised on basis of detailed project reports prepared by Programme Management Consultant (PMC) which is national level consultant for implementing the scheme. So far, Tourism Ministry has sanctioned 74 projects worth Rs. 5997.47 crore to 31 states and Union Territories under this scheme.

PRASAD SCHEME

- ▶ National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (**PRASAD**) to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths.
 - Under the PRASAD scheme thirteen sites have been identified for development, namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwaraka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellankanni, Kedarnath, Kamakhya and Patna.
 - Under the 'PRASAD' scheme the focus is on development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations. Whereas, in the 'Spiritual Circuit' identified under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, the thrust is on development of particular thematic circuit consisting of various religious/spiritual destination in a State and Union Territory.



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