

IMPULSE

SEPTEMBER 2020

EDEN NEWS

BLUE FLAG

Certification scheme - 8 beaches
of India recommended for
coveted international eco - level.

PART - I

HUMAN CAPITAL

Index 2020

SAROD PORTAL

Society for affordable
redressal of disputes - Ports

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EDEN IAS - Educational Development & Enrichment Network

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE SYLLABI

SOURCE – THE HINDU

MAINS PAPER – PAPER 2 AND 3

CONTEXT :

- Students are not given adequate knowledge about history in the schools.
- The syllabus is focused more towards north India.
- Some Students finds reading history boring in school while others like it because their teacher is a great story teller.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE :

- More focus should be on the syllabus of the history not what method is adopted to teach history
- If we go through class 7th history book of NCERT we will see the pattern where the book have more number of chapters of topics like Delhi sultanate and Mughal empire, whereas vijaynagar empire is summarized in just half.
- More focus is on north Indian history than other parts of the country.
- This leads to less knowledge among children's all over India about other kingdoms of medieval history.
- So, if we don't get into what should not be included, let us consider what can be.
- We must do this also in the context of the history syllabi for the higher classes, since every aspect of the subject cannot be taught in Class 7 alone. The North-east is ignored in the curriculum.
- A chapter on the Ahom's (or Tai-Ahom), and the oral history of other ethnic groups will make us, the "mainstream Indians", more educated about an important part of India.
- Since CBSE has national mandate and parents opt for CBSE BOARD OVER STATE BOARDS, the CBSE should re examine its syllabus.
- Hence we can start with history that is closer to the students like focus first on local history, then state history, then national and international.

FOCUSED CHANGE :

- Syllabus can be changed
- Local history project could be implemented if the region has medieval history.
- Promotion of literature across states.
- The volume of north Indian content in the book will not help increase their passion, as teaching something that stoked their own passion for history would.
- If there can be an option of two, or even three chapters, aided by the reliable information we have on the Internet today

INDIA CHINA RELATIONS

GS PAPER – 2 AND 3

Context :

Military commanders of India and China sat down for another round of talks in Moscow aimed at defusing heightened tensions along the south bank of Pangong Tso, which erupted after the Indian Army pre-empted intrusions by Chinese troops.

India's Stand :

- China's actions were in violation of the bilateral agreements.
- Both side would be able to resolve the ongoing situation peacefully through dialogue.
- Diplomacy is the only way out of the crisis that can happen only if both sides understand that it is in each of their best interest if the events like this are not repeated.

China's Stand :

- The responsibility lies entirely with the India's side, while china kept maximum restraint to prevent potential escalation.
- India should immediately withdraw its troops from LAC.
- Both side should stay committed to resolve the issues through dialogue and consultations and make joint efforts to meet each other halfway.

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The Problem so far :

- Stark mismatch between china's statement and the action of its troops.
- It seeks as if India has since may ceded about 1000 square kilometre in ladakh to Chinese control.

Conclusion

Two neighbours need to work towards a diplomatic solution to ensure undisturbed peace and quiet along the border.

- The states should hold consultations with stakeholders on the implementation of the policy said PM because when we move towards change its natural for doubts and questions to arise in peoples mind.
- It is important to discuss all the provisions and nitty – gritty of the document and it can only be implemented once all the doubts in peoples minds are addressed.
- Views of Governor is extremely crucial as he is the chancellor of 400 plus universities which have 40000 affiliated colleges , they will play an important role for the implementation of the NEP.

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

SOURCE – THE HINDU

GS PAPER – 2

CONTEXT :

- Government intervention in education policy should be minimum.
- Policy belongs to the whole country rather than to any particular government in power.

What is National Education Policy 2020 .

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the **new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020** with an aim to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - **from the school to college level. It aims at making "India a global knowledge superpower"**
- **panel headed by former ISRO chief K. Kasturirangan** submitted a draft in December 2018, which was made public and opened for feedback after the Lok Sabha election in May 2019
- **Ministry of Human Resource development to be renamed as Ministry of Education**

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY :

- The Central and the state government as well as local bodies , all should be responsible to the education system. But the government interference should be minimum.

CONCLUSION :

It provide vision for New India of 21st century in line with its aspirations to be a self reliant power. It would transform the country into knowledge economy and tackle brain drain by paving the way to open local campuses of global educational institutions. It will also play crucial role in preparing country's youth for the jobs in near future.

RAFALE JET

SOURCE – THE HINDU

GS PAPER – 3

CONTEXT :

The formal induction ceremony of the Rafael fighter jets will be held at Ambala air force station on September 10.

ABOUT RAFALE FIGHTER JETS

- The Rafael's are **India's first major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years** after the **Sukhoi jets** were imported from Russia
- the Rafael is a **French twin-engine and multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation** being produced for both the French Air Force and for carrier-based operations in the French Navy
- the Rafael is intended to perform air supremacy, interdiction (act of disrupting), aerial reconnaissance (observation to locate an enemy), ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship strike and nuclear deterrence missions

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- The ability to strike **air-to-air targets** from up to 150 km away and safely hit land targets 300 km within enemy territory make them some of the deadliest fighter jets flying in the world.
- The aircraft has 30,000 **flight hours in operations**.
- The aircraft is fitted with an on-board oxygen generation system (OBOGS)
- Identification of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) Children and their management and plantation of **Poshan Vaatikas**- Nutri gardens, will be undertaken as focus activities during *Poshan Maah*, along with awareness generation regarding importance of early breast feeding, Need for good nutrition during first 1000 days of life, measures for reducing Anaemia in young women and children etc.

Why Ambala is chosen for Rafael ?

According to Indian Air Force officials, Ambala was chosen for housing Rafales in the western sector due to several factors such as

1. Depth from the border.
2. Base Infrastructure
3. Technical facilities
4. Airspace availability for local flying
5. The Ambala base is also far enough from India's adversaries to thwart their surveillance gathering attempts

BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2019

SOURCE – PIB

GS PAPER – 3

CONTEXT:

Recently Union Finance minister and Corporate Affairs has announced the 4th edition of BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN (BRAP) ranking of states 2019.

ABOUT:

- Ranking of States based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015.
- The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 includes 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas such as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH

SOURCE – PIB

GS PAPER –1, 2 AND 3

CONTEXT :

3rd Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated during the month of September 2020.

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH :

- It is being celebrated under POSHAN ABHIYAN (PM's overarching scheme for holistic nourishment.)
- To encourage **Jan bhagidaari** in order to create a **Jan Andolan** for addressing malnutrition amongst young children and women.
- To ensure health and nutrition for everyone.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development, being the nodal Ministry for POSHAN Abhiyaan, is celebrating the *Poshan Maah* in convergence with partner Ministries and departments, at National, States/UTs, Districts, and grass root level.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS RANKING

The larger objective of attracting investments and increasing Ease of Doing Business in each State was sought to be achieved by introducing an element of healthy competition through a system of ranking states based on their performance in the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan. The ranking this time gives full weightage to the feedback from over thirty thousand respondents at the ground level, who gave their opinion about the effectiveness of the reforms. State rankings will help attract investments, foster healthy competition and increase Ease of Doing Business in each State.

The top ten states under State Reform Action Plan 2019 are:

1. Andhra Pradesh

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- 2.Uttar Pradesh
- 3.Telangana
- 4.Madhya Pradesh
- 5.Jharkhand
- 6.Chhattisgarh
- 7.Himachal Pradesh
- 8.Rajasthan
- 9.West Bengal
- 10.Gujarat

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT (FCRA) SOURCE - THE HINDU

GS PAPER - 2 AND 3

CONTEXT -

The Union Home Ministry has granted Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration to the famous Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib, or the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, enabling it to receive foreign donations. The foreign contribution can be used by the Sikh shrine for providing financial and medical assistance to the needy. It can also be used to organize langar which is a free community kitchen.

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT (FCRA), 2010

- The FCRA, 2010 is a national security legislation enacted to ensure the internal security of the country is not adversely affected by unregulated foreign donations.
- The FCRA Act is implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs
- donating organizations need to register themselves every five years
- A person with a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme can accept foreign contribution after registration or permission from the Central Government.
- The election candidate, Member of any legislature (MP and MLAs), Political parties, publishers of a registered Newspaper, Judge, government servant or employee of any corporation owned by the government cannot accept the foreign contributions

CONCLUSION

The decision on FCRA at the Sri Harmandir Sahib is a path breaking one which will once again showcase the outstanding spirit of service of our Sikh sisters and brothers."A

PROJECT DOLPHIN

SOURCE - INDIAN EXPRESS

PAPER - 1 AND 3

CONTEXT -

In his Independence Day Speech this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced **the government's plan** to launch a Project Dolphin. The proposed project is aimed at saving both river and marine dolphins

ABOUT

- Project Dolphin will be on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped increase the tiger population.
- Special Conservation program needs to be taken up for Gangetic Dolphin which is national aquatic animal and also indicator species for the river Ganga spread over several states
- Project Dolphin is expected to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

GANGETIC DOLPHIN (Platanista gangetica)

- **FOUND IN** - The Indian subcontinent, particularly in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.
- Listed as **ENDANGERED BY IUCN**
- The Conservation Action Plan for the Ganges River Dolphin, 2010-2020, describes male dolphins as being about 2-2.2 metres long and females as a little longer at 2.4-2.6 m.
- Vikramshilla Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary was established in Bihar
- As the Gangetic dolphin is at the top of the food chain, protecting the species and its habitat will ensure conservation of aquatic lives of the river

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GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

SOURCE - INDIAN EXPRESS

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

NITI Aayog preparing Multidimensional Poverty Index to rank states/UTs.

ABOUT -

- NITI Aayog said it is at an advanced stage for preparation of a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) parameter dashboard to rank states and Union Territories, along with a State Reform Action Plan (SRAP)
- The Global MPI is part of the government's decision to monitor the performance of the country on 29 select global indices
- "The objective of the Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG) exercise is to fulfil the need to measure and monitor India's performance on various important social and economic parameters and enable the utilization of these indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while improving last-mile implementation of government schemes
- Global MPI is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries.
- It was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and United Nations Development Programme for UNDP's Human Development Reports
- The MPI measures acute poverty and people experiencing multiple deprivations, for example, those who are both undernourished and do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and clean fuel. These indicators are set to minimum international agreed standards in basic functioning.

SAROD PORTAL

SOURCE - PIB

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

The Union Ministry of Shipping launched 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes - Ports) through virtual ceremony in New Delhi.

ABOUT -

- It is established under **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- 'SAROD-Ports' is similar to provision available in Highway Sector in the form of **SAROD-Roads** constituted by **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.
- It consists of members from **Indian Ports Association (IPA)** and **Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA)**.
- It will advise and assist in settlement of disputes **through arbitrations** in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.
- SAROD-Ports will become the pivotal mechanism of **ummeed (hope), vishwas (trust) and nyaya (justice)** in the Port sector of India. It will lead to **saving huge amounts of legal expenditure and time**.
- It will promote **ease of doing business** in the maritime sector because of the **fast, timely, cost effective and robust dispute resolution mechanism**.
- All major Ports will shift towards the '**Landlord Model**'.

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MART VILLAGE SCHEME

SOURCE- THE HINDU

GS PAPER – 3

CONTEXT -

The Department of Posts has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.

ABOUT-

- The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.
- All postal products and services will be made available and marketed and publicized at village level, under the Five Star Villages scheme.
- Branch offices will function as one-stop shop to cater all post office - related needs of villagers.
- The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:
 - Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates,
 - Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts,
 - Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts,
 - Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and
 - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.
- The scheme is being launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra; based on the experience here, it will be implemented nation-wide.
- “Postman and Postal Department are a vital part of the ordinary citizen’s life.

MISSION ‘SKILL INDIA

SOURCE – PIB

GS PAPER – 2 AND 3

Context -

Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri R. K. Singh today informed about the details of the works done so far in the districts of Maharashtra under “Skill India” scheme during the last three years.

ABOUT

- Under Skill India Mission, the Ministry is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) to impart Short Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) on pan-India basis including all districts of Maharashtra.
- The scheme has two components:
 1. Centrally Sponsored Centrally Managed (CSCM)
 2. Centrally Sponsored State Managed (CSSM)
- Under CSCM there is no provision to allocate resources state-wise
- Ministry promotes establishment of model and aspirational skill centres known as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) in every district for imparting skill training throughout the country. As on date, 50 PMKKs have been allocated in 36 districts of Maharashtra covering all districts.

NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

SOURCE – PIB

GS PAPER – 2 AND 3

CONTEXT -

Cleaning and rejuvenation of rivers is a continuous process, and Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and Union Territories in addressing the challenges of pollution abatement of

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rivers by providing financial and technical assistance through National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for identified polluted river stretches.

ABOUT -

- Under NRCP, various pollution abatement works relating to interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, river front/bathing ghat development, public participation & awareness programme, etc are taken.
- The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) aims at preventing pollution of rivers and improving water quality.
- **The objective of NRCP is to reduce the pollution load in rivers through implementation of various pollution abatement works, thereby improving their water quality**

cial for achieving the overall objectives of the program.

- The core functioning of an enabling ecosystem in a State/UT is a function of the framework and policy put in place along with effective implementation of the same.

Best Performer: Gujarat (State), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)

Top Performers: Karnataka and Kerala

Leaders: Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Chandigarh

Aspiring Leaders: Haryana, Jharkhand, Punjab, Telangana, Uttarakhand

Emerging Startup Ecosystem: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Sikki

STATE STARTUP RANKING

SOURCE - THE HINDU

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

India announces the states' startup ranking list; Gujarat emerges as best performer in DPIIT's rankings

ABOUT -

- The DPIIT conducted the second edition of the exercise with the key objective to foster competitiveness and propel states and union territories to work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem
- Gujarat retained its best performer tag in the competition which saw a participation of 22 states and three union territories.
- The Start-up India initiative of the Government of India envisages to build a robust Start-up ecosystem in the country for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs
- The active support of State/UT Governments is crucial

BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

SOURCE - LIVE MINT

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

Finance minister introduces Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha. The Bill also replaces the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 that was promulgated on June 26, 2020

KEY PROVISIONS

- The law seeks to protect the interest of the depositors by bringing co-operative banks under the regulatory framework of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- RBI will be able to undertake a scheme of amalgamation of a bank without placing it under moratorium.
- Further amendments were proposed to be made in section 45 of the Act to enable the Reserve Bank of India to make a scheme to protect the interests of the public, the banking system, depositors or to secure the banking company's proper management, without first making an order of moratorium so as to avoid disruptions in the financial system

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- The central bank's banking regulations will be applicable to cooperative banks as well, which is expected to enhance the oversight of the co-operative banking sector
- Cooperative banks will be allowed to raise money via public issue and private placement, of equity or preference shares as well as unsecured debentures, with the central's bank's nod.
- The Bill states that, co-operative banks cannot employ person as Chairman, who is insolvent or has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude
- It includes creation of infrastructure for primary processing and storage near the farm in the form of Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) and Collection Centres (CCs) and common facilities and enabling infrastructure like roads, electricity, water, Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) facilities etc. at Central Processing Centre (CPC).
- These PPCs and CCs act as aggregation and storage points to feed raw material to the processing units located in the CPC. The scheme will be demand-driven, and will facilitate food processing units to meet environmental and safety standards.

MEGA FOOD PARKS

SOURCE - PIB

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

37 Mega Food Parks in 23 States/UTs approved. Each fully operational Mega Food Park to provide employment to about 5000 persons

ABOUT THE SCHEME -

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) to create modern infrastructure for the food processing industries since 2008.
- This scheme is now a component of the new Central Sector Umbrella Scheme- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).
- The Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) aims at providing modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain from farm to market
- The primary objective of the MFPS is to provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from the farm to the market. It will include creation of processing infrastructure near the farm, transportation, logistics and centralized processing centres.
- The scheme functions with a cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model by establishing Mega Food Parks.

- The requirement of land for establishing the CPC is minimum 50 acres either by purchase or on lease of at least 75 years for the Central Processing Centre of the Mega Food Park.
- **FUNDING** - scheme provides for a capital grant at the rate of 50 percent of the project cost (excluding land cost) in general areas and at the rate of 75 percent of the project cost (excluding land cost) in difficult and hilly areas i.e. North East Region including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and ITDP notified areas of the States subject to a maximum of Rs.50 crores per project

GIANT RADIO GALAXIES

SOURCE - INDIAN EXPRESS

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

Researchers find largest sample of giant radio galaxies in universe

ABOUT-

- Large single structures in the universe, have found its largest sample to date.
- The research work has recently been published in a journal, Astronomy & Astrophysics
- It is not clearly understood how some objects grow to such large scales and what is the fuel of their respective black holes,
- **Radio galaxies.** - The universe has billions of galaxies and almost all have super massive black holes at

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the centre. Some of these black holes are active and produce jets travelling almost at the speed of light. These jets are visible in radio light or at radio wavelength of the electromagnetic spectrum. Such galaxies, which have active black holes shooting high-speed jets, are called radio galaxies

- A fraction of radio galaxies, under special conditions, grow to giant scales or mega-parsec scales (millions of light years across, where one light year $\sim 9.46 \times 1,015$ metres) and are called giant radio galaxies (GRGs).
- The length of jets tells us how powerful and active the black hole is as well as about the environment density of these objects

CONCLUSION

The study of GRGs gives important clues to unveiling the physics and phenomenology of the black hole accretion process or, in other words, how these massive black holes accrete mass and the efficiency with which they produce these magnificent jets

the achievement of other SDGs and adhering to the principle of doing no harm.

- The Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building in all facets of coral reef conservation, restoration, and adaptation, and strengthen ongoing efforts and commitments made to enhance coral reefs conservation and their further degradation.

G20 -

- The Group of Twenty (G20), a collection of twenty of the world's largest economies formed in 1999, was conceived as a bloc that would bring together the most important industrialized and developing economies to discuss international economic and financial stability.
- It consists of 19 individual countries, including the US, Russia, China, Japan, Australia, Saudi, plus the European Union.

GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE LAND DEGRADATION AND CORAL REEF PROGRAM

SOURCE - PIB
GS PAPER - 3

THE AIRCRAFT (Amendment) BILL, 2020

SOURCE - THE HINDU
GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT-

The Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries took place today through video conferencing under the Presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Representing India, Union Environment, Climate Change and Forest Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar said, India has taken significant steps to protect environment and forest and wildlife as well as combating pollution and climate change.

ABOUT

- It aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally, taking into account possible implications on

CONTEXT -

The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by Parliament. Earlier, it was passed in the Lok Sabha on March 17, 2020. The Bill was passed by a voice vote.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

- Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 which regulates manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of civil aircraft, and licensing of aerodromes.
- The Bill gives statutory powers to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

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- The Bill empowers the aviation watchdog DGCA to levy penalties of upto ₹1 crore on airlines, airports and other aviation entities.
- The changes include recognizing regulatory bodies such as the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau- which were set up through various government notifications but didn't have a defined role under the parent Act, as well as air navigation services
- The statutory status would improve India's aviation safety ranking.
- The Bill empowers the central government to cancel the licences, certificates or approvals granted to a person under the Act if the person does not go by any provision of the Act.
- DGCA will have safety oversight and regulatory functions as mentioned in the Bill.
- BCAS will carry out regulatory activities related to civil aviation security. AAIB will look into investigative activities for aircraft accidents.
- The central government can issue directions to these bodies with respect to their activities in public interest.
- This Ordinance amends the Salary, Allowances, and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.
- The Act lays out the salary and various allowances that an MP is entitled to during their term in Parliament and also provides for the pension to former MPs.
- The Ordinance reduces the basic salary of MPs by 30%.
- Further, the government also amended certain Rules under the 1954 Act to reduce certain allowances of MPs.
- These amendments have been made for a period of one year effective from April 1, 2020
- The Act provides for the payment of a monthly sumptuary allowance (for expenditure incurred in entertaining visitors) at different rates to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State, and Deputy Ministers
- The President and Vice-President of India along with all the State Governors, have also decided to cut their salary by 30%.
- The amendment would only cut MPs' salaries but not the allowances or the pensions of ex-MPs.

THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (Amendment) BILL, 2020

SOURCE- PRS INDIA

GS PAPER -2

HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX 2020

SOURCE - THE HINDU

GS PAPER - 3

CONTEXT -

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to cut salaries of MPs by 30%.

KEY PROVISIONS

- *This Bill replaces the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020.*

CONTEXT -

India ranks 116 on human capital index

HUMAN CAPITAL INDEX

- The **Human Capital Index** is a report prepared by the World Bank.
- The Index measures which countries are best in mobilizing the economic and professional potential of its citizens.

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- The index measures how much capital each country loses through lack of education and health
- India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, according to the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank
- It includes health and education data for 174 countries — covering 98 per cent of the world's population — up to March 2020, providing a pre-pandemic baseline on the health and education of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries
- pre-pandemic, most countries had made steady progress in building human capital of children, with the biggest strides made in low-income countries
- The pandemic puts at risk the decade's progress in building human capital, including the improvements in health, survival rates, school enrollment, and reduced stunting
- After consultation with all stakeholders, the federal government has decided in principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan

INDIA'S OBJECTIONS

The Government of Pakistan or its judiciary has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it.

- Pakistan should immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation
- Work on the Moqpondass Special Economic Zone would begin under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The Moqpondass SEZ in Gilgit is part of the CPEC, and began construction after Imran Khan's visit to China in April 2019.

THE FARMERS PRODUCE TRADE AND COMMERCE (Promotion and Facilitation) BILL, 2020

SOURCE - PIB

GS PAPER- 3

CONTEXT-

Lok Sabha passes The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

[The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce \(Promotion and Facilitation\) Bill, 2020](#)

PAKISTAN TO MAKE GILGIT-BALTISTAN A FULL-FLEDGED PROVINCE

SOURCE - THE HINDU

GS PAPER - 2

CONTEXT -

Pakistan has decided to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan's status to that of a full-fledged province,

PAKISTAN'S TAKE -

- Gilgit-Baltistan would be given adequate representation on all constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly and the Senate
- The new legislation will create an ecosystem where the farmers and traders will enjoy freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agri-produce. It will also promote barrier-free inter-state and intra-state trade and commerce outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Agricultural Produce Marketing legislations
- More choices for the farmer, reduce marketing costs for the farmers and help them in getting better prices

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- It will also help farmers of regions with surplus produce to get better prices and consumers of regions with shortages, lower prices.
- The Bill also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.
- The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act. Further there will be a separate dispute resolution mechanism for the farmers.

One India, One Agriculture Market

- The Bill basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition.
- This will supplement the existing MSP procurement system which is providing stable income to farmers.
- It will certainly pave the way for creating One India, One Agriculture Market and will lay the foundation for ensuring golden harvests for our hard working farmers.

"BEAMS" (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services)

- India's own eco-label **BEAMS** by e-hoisting the flag **-#IAMSAVINGMYBEACH** simultaneously at these eight beaches.
- SICOM, MoEFCC in pursuit of promoting its policies for sustainable development in coastal regions have embarked upon a highly acclaimed program **"BEAMS"** (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under its ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project
- This is one of the several other projects of ICZM that Govt of India is undertaking for the sustainable development of coastal regions, striving for globally recognized and the coveted eco-label **'Blue flag'**

HOMOEOPATHY CENTRAL COUNCIL (Amendment) Bill, 2020

SOURCE – LIVEMINT

GS PAPER – 2

BLUE FLAG CERTIFICATION SCHEME

SOURCE – PIB

GS PAPER – 3

CONTEXT-

On the eve of International Coastal Clean-Up Day which is celebrated across 100 countries since 1986, Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) announced at a virtual event that for the first time eight beaches of India are recommended for the coveted International eco-label, the Blue flag certification.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

- Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world.
- The **Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas** is run by **the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education)**

Context -

The Rajya Sabha on Friday passed Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on September 14. The Bill, which is now an Act, proposes amendments to the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973. It will replace the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, promulgated on April 24.

KEY FEATURES

- The Bill seeks to amend the Act to increase the period for the supersession of the council from two to three years.
- The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 amends the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970. The Act provides for the constitution of a central council, which regulates the education and practice of the Indian medicine system, including ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy
- The government was committed to ensure high qual-

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ity health facilities as well as easy availability of all systems of medicine

- A separate medical commission would be established for yoga and naturopathy

WORLD BAMBOO DAY

SOURCE - THE HINDU

GS PAPER- 3

CONTEXT -

Every year, the World Bamboo Day is celebrated by the World Bamboo Organization on 18th September.

ABOUT -

- The tallest grass on earth at its smallest could be among the cheapest immunity boosters for increasing the human body's resistance to viral attacks
- The bamboo, considered the grass of life in the north-east, takes care of almost every requirement from birth to death
- Bamboo shoots are emerging as high-value and safe edibles and growing in utility globally along with all other value-added bamboo products.
- The protein content in fresh bamboo shoots, considered as nutraceutical, can range between 1.49-4.04%.
- They also contain 17 amino acids, eight of which are essential for the human body.
- Bamboo has been a key ingredient in new antimicrobial soaps and hand mists developed by Filipino scientists to fight the novel corona virus

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO BOOST BAMBOO PRODUCTION

National Bamboo Mission, India has the highest area (13.96 million hectares) under bamboo and is the second richest country after China in terms of bamboo diversity with 136 species. The annual production of bamboo in India is 14.6 million tonnes and the bamboo-rattan industry in the country was worth ₹28,005 crore in 2017.

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