



Current Affairs

JULY 2019

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ICJ

1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
2. The ICJ's primary functions are to settle international legal disputes submitted by states (contentious cases) and give advisory opinions on legal issues referred to it by the UN (advisory proceedings).
3. The ICJ is the successor of the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which was established by the League of Nations in 1920.
4. After the Second World War, both the League and the PCIJ were succeeded by the United Nations and ICJ, respectively.
5. All members of the UN are party to the ICJ Statute.
6. The ICJ comprises a panel of 15 judges elected by the General Assembly and Security Council for nine-year terms.
7. The court is seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, making it the only principal U.N. organ not located in New York City.
8. Elections are staggered, with five judges elected every three years to ensure continuity within the court.
9. No two judges may be nationals of the same country.
10. Article 94 establishes the duty of all UN members to comply with decisions of the court involving them. If parties do not comply, the issue may be taken before the Security Council for enforcement action.
11. Justice Dalveer Bhandari is Indian member in ICJ.

ICJ came into news because of Kulbhushan Jadhav case. Pakistan was ordered to comply with art 36 of Vienna code of consular relations and provide consular access to Jadhav.

KAJIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

1. Established as national park in 1908.
2. In 1985, Kajiranga was declared world heritage site by UNESCO under natural category.
3. 2/3rd population of one horned rhino inhabit here.
4. Rhino is keystone species.
5. Other famous species are Wild Water Buffaloes, Swamp Deer, Tiger and Elephant.

KEYSTONE SPECIES

Species that has a disproportionately large effect on its natural environment relative to its abundance.

A keystone species is a plant or animal that plays a unique and crucial role in the way an ecosystem functions. Without keystone species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether. Some keystone species, such

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6. In 2006, it was also declared tiger reserve due to rise in tiger population.
7. One horned rhino is also found in Java, Indonesia.
8. Rhino falls in vulnerable species of IUCN list.

FADNAVIS COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

1. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will be the convenor of the high-powered committee of chief ministers tasked with suggesting ways to undertake structural reforms in agriculture to boost farmers' income.
2. To suggest modalities for adoption of a time-bound implementation of the new model APMC Act and model Contract Farming Act.
3. The panel will also examine various provisions of Essential Commodity Act (ECA), 1955 and suggest changes in it to attract private investments in agricultural marketing and infrastructure.
4. It will also suggest mechanisms for linking of market reforms with e-NAM, GRAM and other relevant centrally sponsored schemes.
5. Apart from these, the committee has also been tasked to come up with policy measures to boost agriculture exports, raise growth in food processing, attract investments in modern market infrastructure, value chains and logistics.
6. The panel of chief ministers will also suggest measures to upgrade agriculture technology to global standards and improve access of farmers to quality seed, plant propagation material and farm machinery.
7. The decision to form the panel was taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the fifth meeting of the NITI Aayog governing council.
8. The committee will submit its report in the two months.

MPC 2016

1. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the Central Bank in India (Reserve Bank of India), headed by its Governor
2. It is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to contain inflation within the specified target level.
3. The Reserve Bank of India and Government of India signed the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement on 20 February 2015.
4. The history of suggestions for setting up a MPC is not new and traces back to 2002 when the Y. V. Reddy Committee recommended for a MPC to decide policy actions. Subsequently, suggestions were made to set up a MPC in 2006 by the Tarapore Committee, in 2007 by the Percy Mistry

COMPOSITION OF MPC

the MPC will have six members, - the RBI Governor (Chairperson), the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board and the remaining three members would represent the Government of India.

The MPC takes decisions based on majority vote (by those who are present and voting). In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote. The decision of the Committee would be binding on the RBI.

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Committee, in 2009 by the Raghuram Rajan Committee and then in 2013, both in the report of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC) and the Dr.Urjit R. Patel (URP) Committee.

5. Under the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement, the RBI will be responsible for containing inflation targets at 4% (with a standard deviation of 2%) in the medium term.

SURJIT BHALLA COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND POLICY

1. The Union commerce ministry had constituted a high-level advisory group on Foreign trade policy. The group has submitted its report to the government in June 2019.
2. The panel has recommended the centre to cut down corporate tax rate and set a target to double the exports by 2025.
3. The Committee has recommended **Elephant Bonds** as a specialised security product providing funds towards Long Term Infrastructure.
4. Elephant Bonds will be a 25-year sovereign bonds in which people declaring undisclosed income will be bound to invest 50%. The fund will be utilised only for infrastructure projects.
5. The suggestions made by the group also includes (a) creating pan India Tourism board and medical tourism campaign (b) modify labour laws to remove the limitation on firm size and (c) establish industrial parks to cater to the needs of electronics manufacturing.
6. Besides, the group has recommended (a) increasing capital base of EXIM Bank by another Rs 20,000 crore by 2022 (b) setting up of empowered investment promotion agency and (c) seeking input from industry and MSMEs before signing free trade agreements (FTAs).

ASHOK DALWAI COMMITTEE ON DOUBLING FARMERS' INCOME

1. On April 13, 2016, the government set up a committee under Ashok Dalwai, then additional secretary in the Union ministry of agriculture, to prepare a report on DFI.
2. The report pertains to three areas — productivity gains, reduction in cost of cultivation, and remunerative prices.
3. One-India market- The one-India market concept may benefit from placing agricultural marketing under the Concurrent List (in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution).
4. While cultivation is limited to the land and area of farming operations, marketing has no boundaries and needs to operate on a pan-India level to meet demand across the country.
5. The needs include creation of better physical infrastructure, improved price information dissemination campaigns, and reform regulations that force farmers to sell their produce to local monopolies.
6. Electronic National Agriculture Market (NAM)
7. Role of FPO/VPO:- It suggested that farmer producer and village producer organisations (FPO/VPO) could play a critical role in integrating small and marginal farmers into the agricultural market system.
8. The report set a minimum target of 7,000 FPOs/VPOs, each of which could cover 1,000 farmers and/or 1,000 hectares.

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9. The committee also called for amending the Companies Act to facilitate private sector shareholding in FPOs up to 26 per cent and incentivising them by treating them at par with cooperative societies.
10. Setting up Markets:-The committee estimated that the country would need about 10,000 wholesale and nearly 20,000 rural retail markets to achieve the desired market density to build a pan-India system.
11. The current agricultural marketing system in the country comprised of 2,284 Agricultural Produce marketing Committees (APMCs), which operate 2,339 principal markets. These principal markets have extended their footprint further through sub-market yards, numbering 4,276.
12. State Governments may convert these principal and sub-market yards into full-fledged and independent markets.
13. This will take the total number of wholesale markets to more than 6,600 and the remaining requirement of about 3,500 may be met by promoting private markets under the provisions of the proposed Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing, (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017.
14. APLM rollout sought- The committee also urged the Union Agriculture Ministry to roll out the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitating) Act (APLM) Rules so that States can make the act operational.
15. States could upgrade existing facilities such as warehouses and silos as markets.
16. The demand for rural retail markets could be met by upgrading the existing over-20,000 rural periodical markets as Primary Rural Agricultural Markets.
17. It also delineated the need for both the Centre as well as the States/UTs constituting special purpose vehicles to own and operate the National Agriculture Market.
18. Financial support:-The committee believes that small and marginal farmers, who constitute 80 per cent of Indian farmers, would benefit from an efficient marketing system, only if they have withholding capacity.
19. This can be achieved by offering them pledge finance (post-harvest loan against produce as collateral).
20. Storage godowns, including cold storages, should be upgraded per the standards laid down by the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority so that they can issue Negotiable Warehouse Receipts.
21. The Ministry has to develop comprehensive guidelines to promote warehouse-based post-harvest loans and e-NWR based trading.
22. There is also a need to popularise post-harvest loans against NWRs among farmers and orient financial institutions to participate in the pledge loan system.
23. Drawbacks of the report:-DFI means three times higher effort and resources. That means a humungous additional investment of about Rs 6,40,000 crore at 2011-12 prices. 80% of this investment has to come from the government. The investments in and for agriculture need to rise by 22 per cent per annum in real terms if the dream of DFI is to be realised. But the report is totally silent on how, and from where, these resources will be generated.

BOGIBEL BRIDGE

Bogibeel bridge is a combined road and rail bridge over the Brahmaputra river in the north eastern Indian state of Assam between Dhemaji district and Dibrugarh district. Bogibeel river bridge is the longest rail-cum-road bridge in India measuring 4.94 kilometres over the Brahmaputra river. As it is situated in an earthquake-prone area it is India's first bridge to have fully welded steel-concrete support beams that can withstand earthquakes of magnitudes up to 7 on the Richter Scale.

It is the 5th longest bridge in India after Bhupen Hazarika Setu, Dibang River Bridge, Mahatma Gandhi Setu and Bandra-Worli Sea Link. It was inaugurated by prime minister Narendra Modi on 25th December 2018 on the occasion of Good Governance Day.

AUTOMATED FACIAL RECOGNITION SYSTEM (AFRS)

The AFRS, being implemented by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), is a component of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a national database of crimes and criminals. The AFRS would not violate privacy of citizens and is only being developed to help the law enforcement agencies to identify criminals, missing children and unidentified bodies in a scientific and speedy manner. The data will only be accessible to law enforcement agencies. The NCRB had recently invited bids for AFRS that would "capture face images from CCTV feed and generate alerts if a blacklist match is found," triggering privacy concern.

AFRS works by maintaining a large database with photos and videos of peoples' faces. Then, a new image of an unidentified person, often taken from CCTV footage is compared to the existing database to find a match and identify the person. The artificial intelligence technology used for pattern-finding and matching is called "neural networks". AFRS will be a mobile and web application hosted in NCRB's Data Centre in Delhi, but will be used by all police stations in the country.

RTI AMENDMENTS 2019

1. The Bill amends Sections 13 and 16 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
2. Section 13 of the original Act sets the term of the central Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners at five years (or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier).
3. The amendment proposes that the appointment will be "for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government".
4. Again, Section 13 states that salaries, allowances and other terms of service of "the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner", and those of an Information Commissioner "shall be the same as that of an Election Commissioner".
5. The amendment proposes that the salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners "shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government".
6. Section 16 of the original Act deals with state-level Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners. It sets the term for state-level CICs and ICs at five years (or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier).

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7. The amendment proposes that these appointments should be for “such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government”. And while the original Act prescribes salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the state Chief Information Commissioner as “the same as that of an Election Commissioner”, and the salaries and other terms of service of the State Information Commissioners as “the same as that of the Chief Secretary to the State Government”, the amendment proposes that these “shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government”.

COLISTIN

1. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an order prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of colistin and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.
2. It is a “massive victory” for the movement against anti-microbial resistance. Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units and in recent years, medical professionals have been alarmed by the number of patients who have exhibited resistance to the drug.
3. Therefore, any move to ensure that arbitrary use of colistin in the food industry, particularly as growth supplements used in animals, poultry, aqua farms, would likely reduce the antimicrobial resistance within the country.

ETPBS

1. In 2019 general elections 60% voters registered with EPBS exercised their right to vote.
2. Various service personnel can cast their votes via the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS). This will save time and relieve the burden of the Election Commission.
3. Nearly 1,08,000 service voters are registered with the Election Commission. Personnel working in the military, Central and state Armed Forces and those who are deputed to foreign nations for government service as well as Indian officers and government employees and their family can cast their votes through this system.
4. Ballot papers are sent to the service voters using the ETPBS ten days before the elections, a time-saving procedure. The recipient has to download and print the ballot paper.
5. The ETPBS is not new as it was used in India for the Nellithope Assembly constituency byelection in Puducherry in 2016.

PROJECT SAMPARK

Started in 1975, Project SAMPARK is committed to the construction, improvement and maintenance of strategic road network of border districts of Jammu & Kashmir, south of PirPanjal Range and plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of the region.

TRILINGUAGE FORMULA OF INDIA

1. There is no national language in India.
2. Part XVII of the Constitution of India designates Hindi as the official language of the Union and a clause "or in English" is added for carrying out daily official work.

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3. The article 343 (1), specifically mentions that, "The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devnagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals."
4. English is used in official purposes such as parliamentary proceedings, judiciary, communications between the Central Government and a State Government.
5. States within India have the liberty and powers to specify their own official language(s) through legislation.
6. In addition to the official languages, the 8th schedule of constitution recognises 22 regional languages, which includes Hindi but not English, as scheduled languages, that are not be confused with official status of the Union.
7. Parliament enacted the Official Languages Act, 1963, which provided for the continued use of English for official purposes along with Hindi, even after 1965. Any one regional language can be adopted by states other than English, though Hindi will be official language for Hindi speaking states.

BHABHA KAVACH

Bhabha Kavach, billed as "India's lightest bullet-proof jacket", was launched at the International Police Expo 2019 in New Delhi last week. The bullet-proof jacket, developed jointly by the Ordnance Factories Board and the public sector metals and metal alloys manufacturer MIDHANI, can withstand bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle (7.62 mm hard steel core bullets), and the 5.56 mm INSAS rifle, according to a press release issued by the Expo.

PROJECT JATAN

Ministry of Culture has taken up project named 'JATAN' in collaboration w/C-DAC, Pune for creating online digital repository of museum collections on national portal www.museumofindia.gov.in for museums.

SUBHASH CHANDRA GARG COMMITTEE

1. Constituted in 2018 to give suggestion on regulation of cryptocurrencies in India.
2. Submitted its report in July 2019.
3. Committee prepared a draft bill "Banning of Cryptocurrencies and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019"
4. Suggested banning of all private cryptocurrencies in India.
5. Data localisation for every digital currency and payment platforms.
6. Early law on data protection in India.

NTCA

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1. The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 was amended in 2006 to provide for constituting the **National Tiger Conservation Authority** responsible for implementation of the Project Tiger plan to protect endangered tigers.
2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority is set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests. The Authority has eight experts or professionals having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals, apart from three Members of Parliament of whom two will be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States. The Inspector General of Forests, in charge of project Tiger, will be ex-officio Member Secretary.
3. The Authority, inter alia, lay down normative standards, guidelines for tiger conservation in the Tiger Reserves, apart from National Parks and Sanctuaries.
4. It provides information on protection measures including future conservation plan, tiger estimation, disease surveillance, mortality survey, patrolling, report on untoward happenings and such other management aspects as it may deem fit, including future plan for conservation.
5. The Tiger Conservation Authority is required to prepare an Annual Report, which is laid in the Parliament along with the Audit Report.
6. State level Steering Committees be set up in the Tiger States under the Chairmanship of respective Chief Ministers.
7. A provision has been made for the State Governments to prepare a Tiger Conservation Plan, which would include staff development, their deployment to ensure protection of tiger reserves and its development, while ensuring compatible forestry operations in adjoining areas. Further, safeguards have been provided for ensuring the agricultural, livelihood, developmental and other interests of the people living inside a forest or in and around a tiger reserve. The core as well as buffer areas have been explicitly explained to avoid ambiguity.

NEW SC JUDGES

1. Parliament on passed a bill which seeks to increase the number of Supreme Court judges from the present 30 to 33 with a view to reducing pendency of cases.

TIGER CENSUS RESULT (2018)

On 29th July 2019, International Tiger Day, PM Narendra Modi has declared the result of Tiger Census 2018. India is now officially one of the biggest and safest habitats of Royal Bengal Tiger.

The Total population of Royal Bengal Tiger in India is 2967 as per the Tiger Census 2018, which is more than double of 2006 Tiger Census.

Top three tiger states are-

1. Madhya Pradesh- 526
2. Karnataka- 524
3. Uttrakhand- 442

LWO, Jodhpur

1. The British Government of Imperial India established a locust warning organisation in the year 1939 with its Hqrs at Karachi (undivided India), after the ravages and depredation of the Desert locust plague of 1926-1931.
2. The main function of this organization at that time was to keep surveillance in the Thar Desert and issuance of warning to the then Indian states about the possibility of the Desert locust swarms incursion, movement and breeding.
3. The present Locust warning organization established in the month of October 1946, is an important division of Directorate of plant protection, quarantine and storage under the than Department of Agriculture and

2. "The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019" was passed by both houses.
3. After Parliament's nod, its sanctioned strength will go up to 33, plus the CJI.

DESERT LOCUST ATTACK

1. In the wake of a locust attack threat from across the Pakistan border, authorities here have gone on an alert to deal with a swarm of the tropical grasshoppers entering India since the insects can devastate standing crops.
2. After locust sightings in border villages around Jaisalmer, the Jodhpur-headquartered Locust Warning Organisation (LWO) has stepped up efforts to tackle any major attack by the grasshoppers by conducting a mock drill and is ready with an adequate stock of pesticides.
3. However, the locust threat is only confined to nearby villages as the insect cannot fly long distances. However, it spreads with the help of the wind or desert storm which occurs during the summer season in the Rajasthan desert.
4. According to the LWO, the last major locust outbreak was reported in Rajasthan in 1993 and the insects have been sighted after a gap of 26 years.
5. According to an official, locusts are active from the summer to the rainy season and the breeding grounds for such grasshoppers are the coastal areas of Balochistan in Pakistan.
6. A fresh stock of pesticide 'malathion' has also been brought.
7. A very small swarm eats as much in one day as about 35,000 people, posing a devastating threat to crops and food security.

SWADESH DARSHAN SCHEME

1. India's rich cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage provides a huge potential for development of tourism and job creation in the country.
2. There is a great scope and need to develop tourist circuits on specific themes to attract the tourists having special interest in visiting such places.
3. Various themes which are unique and specific to the area can include beaches, culture, heritage, wildlife etc. Such theme based tourist circuits should be developed in a manner that supports communities, provides employment and fosters social integration without comprising upon the environmental concerns and provides unique experiences to the tourists.
4. In due recognition to this the Government of India, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Central Sector Scheme)– for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15. Total 14 thematic circuits such as Ramayana circuit, Buddhist circuit, Tirthankara circuit etc.

THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

1. The Bill amends the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012.
2. Penetrative sexual assault: Under the Act, a person commits "penetrative sexual assault" if he: (i) penetrates his penis into the vagina, mouth, urethra or anus of a child, or (ii) makes a child do the same, or (iii) inserts any other object into the child's body, or (iv) applies his mouth to a child's body parts. The punishment for such offence is imprisonment between seven years to life, and a fine.

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3. The amendment Bill increases the minimum punishment from seven years to ten years. It further adds that if a person commits penetrative sexual assault on a child below the age of 16 years, he will be punishable with imprisonment between 20 years to life, along with a fine.
4. Aggravated penetrative sexual assault: The Act defines certain actions as “aggravated penetrative sexual assault”. These include cases when a police officer, a member of the armed forces, or a public servant commits penetrative sexual assault on a child.
5. It also covers cases where the offender is a relative of the child, or if the assault injures the sexual organs of the child or the child becomes pregnant, among others.
6. The amendment Bill adds two more grounds to the definition of aggravated penetrative sexual assault. These include: (i) assault resulting in the death of child, and (ii) assault committed during a natural calamity.
7. Currently, the punishment for aggravated penetrative sexual assault is imprisonment between 10 years to life, and a fine. The Bill increases the minimum punishment from ten years to 20 years, and the maximum punishment to death penalty.
8. Aggravated sexual assault: Under the Act, “sexual assault” includes actions where a person touches the vagina, penis, anus or breast of a child with sexual intent without penetration. “Aggravated sexual assault” includes cases where the offender is a relative of the child, or if the assault injures the sexual organs of the child, among others.
9. The amendment Bill adds two more offences to the definition of aggravated sexual assault. These include: (i) assault committed during a natural calamity, and (ii) administering any hormone or any chemical substance, to a child for the purpose of attaining early sexual maturity.
10. Pornographic purposes: Under the Act, a person is guilty of using a child for pornographic purposes if he uses a child in any form of media for the purpose of sexual gratification. The Act also penalises persons who use children for pornographic purposes resulting in sexual assault.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION (RULE 193)

Short Duration Discussion (Rule 193) Under this provision, an MP can raise a discussion on a matter of urgent public importance. The time for the discussion is allocated by the Business Advisory Committee. The MP will need to give notice to the Speaker specifying the matter to be raised and the reasons for doing so. The MP raises the matter and this is followed by other MPs discussing the issue. The Minister-in-charge responds at the end of the discussion. Voting on the issue is not needed under rule 193.

RULE 184

This Rule can be used to determine the sense of the House on matters of general public interest. The issue must be raised in the form of a motion. This procedure is similar to that of Rule 193, with one exception. After the Minister’s reply, the House votes on the motion.

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS AND MOTION OF THANKS

The Constitution provides for an address by the President to both Houses of Parliament assembled together after each general election and before the start of the first session every year. The address is drafted by the government and contains its broad policy plans and legislative agenda for the year. MPs may move amendments, known as motion of thanks, to the President’s address. This is followed by a

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motion in the House in which the concerned MP's amendment is put to vote. An amendment to the address is treated as a vote of no confidence against the government. The discussion on the motion of thanks concludes once the Prime Minister responds.

GAFA TAXATION SYSTEM

French Finance minister Bruno Le Maire had recently announced the introduction of a GAFA tax— named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon—on large technology and internet companies in France from 1 January 2019. These internet giants will now pay taxes to the government based on the services they provide. This has happened for the first time in the world.

OPERATION THIRST

In a move to ensure health and well-being of its passengers, Indian Railways has cracked down on unauthorised packaged drinking water (PDW) vendors in trains and Indian Railways premises across India.

The exercise, named 'Operation Thirst', was carried out on 8 and 9 July by the Railways Police Force (RPF). All Zonal Principal Chief Security Commissioners (PCSC) were involved in the operation and the PCSCs are taking the necessary actions on the illegal vendors.

SPIKE MISSILES

Indian Army places order for Israeli anti-tank Spike missiles, In a major move to bolster its arsenal and firepower against enemies, the Indian Army is buying Spike Missiles. The order was placed under emergency purchases in order to meet operational preparedness.

PMGSY III

1. In order to provide an impetus to rural road connectivity, the central govt. has approved Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase 3 (PMGSY III).
2. Around 1.25 lakh Km road length is to be consolidated with an estimated cost of Rs. 80,250 crore for the upcoming 5 years duration i.e from 2020 to 2024.
3. Almost 97% of the eligible and feasible habitations have already been connected by all-weather road.
4. It involves consolidation of 'Through Routes' and 'Major Rural Links' connecting habitations to gram agricultural markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools and hospitals. This scheme is essential for the overall socio-economic development of various districts across the country.
5. PMGSY was launched in December 2000 to provide single all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitation of designated population size.

PLAN BEE

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1. The Indian Railways has come up with an initiative called “Plan Bee” to prevent speeding trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks.
2. plan involves setting up of devices near tracks, which emit the ‘buzzing’ sound of swarming bees, considered as a natural nemesis of elephants.
3. launched in November,2018 to stop elephants from being hit by speeding trains in the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR), has been a great success as the number of casualties has gone down drastically.

UTKASRH 2022

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, which met in New Delhi, finalised a three- year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.
2. This medium term strategy — named Utkarsh 2022 — is in line with the global central banks’ plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.
3. Worldwide, all central banks strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism, everybody is formulating a long-term plan and a medium-term plan. So, the RBI has also decided it will formulate a programme to outline what is to be achieved in the next three years.
4. An internal committee was formed, which was anchored by outgoing Deputy Governor Viral Acharya, to identify issues that needed to be addressed over the next three years.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION BY PARLIAMENT

1. A resolution is a formal expression of the sense, will or action of a legislative body/parliament.
2. Resolutions are broadly of three types-
 - a) Resolutions which are an expression of opinion by the House. Since the purpose of such a resolution is merely to obtain an expression of opinion of the House, the government is not bound to give effect to the opinions expressed in these resolutions.
 - b) Resolutions which have statutory effect. The notice of a Statutory Resolution is given in pursuance of a provision in the Constitution or an Act of Parliament. Such a resolution, if adopted, is binding on the government and has the force of law.
 - c) Resolutions which the House passes in the matter of control over its own proceedings.

e-MASIHA

For medical facilities to visiting pilgrims. e-MASIHA (Medical Assistance System for Indian Hajis Abroad) is an online platform where Health status and medical history of visiting pilgrims is being stored. It would retrieve pilgrims’ health information to apply appropriate treatment whenever he or she visits Indian medical facilities during Haj.

UNWFP

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is a UN organization.
2. The UNFPA says it "is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled".
3. Their work involves the improvement of reproductive health; including creation of national strategies and protocols, and birth control by providing supplies and services. The organization

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has recently been known for its worldwide campaign against child marriage, obstetric fistula and female genital mutilation.

4. UNFPA began operations in 1969 as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (the name was changed in 1987) under the administration of the United Nations Development Fund. In 1971 it was placed under the authority of the United Nations General Assembly.
5. UNFPA has been assisting the Government of India since 1974 to provide family planning and health services, advance reproductive health and rights and improve maternal health.
6. Its Eighth Country Programme of assistance (2013-17) to the Government of India focusses on young people's sexual and reproductive health and improving opportunities for vulnerable women and girls.
7. UNFPA also supports research, advocacy and government policies and programmes to advance gender equality and reproductive rights, family planning and population dynamics.
8. UNFPA partners with the government at the centre, other development partners at the national level, and carries out its programmes through offices in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan. nag missile

OPS MILAP

1. The operation Milap under which children are rescued was launched in December 2014.
2. Under this project, the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police develops information, rescues the trafficked or kidnapped person and arrests the kidnappers.
3. The Delhi Police Crime Branch has rescued 333 children from the Capital. These children were missing since January 2019 from various parts of the country and found in the Capital, the police said.

ANSHULA KANT

Anshula Kant (born 7 September 1960) is the chief financial officer and managing director of the World Bank Group, appointed on 12 July 2019. She is from Roorkee, India.

THE SPECIAL 301 REPORT

The Special 301 Report is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) that identifies trade barriers to United States companies and products due to the intellectual property laws, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, in other countries. By April 30 of each year, the USTR must identify countries which do not provide "adequate and effective" protection of intellectual property rights or "fair and equitable market access to United States persons that rely upon intellectual property rights".

the annual Special 301 Report includes a list of "Priority Foreign Countries", that are judged to have inadequate intellectual property laws; these countries may be subject to sanctions. In addition, the report contains a "Priority Watch List" and a "Watch List", containing countries whose intellectual property regimes are deemed of concern. India is continuously in priority watch list prompting USA to initiate WTO trade dispute cases and withdrawal from GSP list.

ICSID

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) is an international arbitration institution established in 1966 for legal dispute resolution and conciliation between international investors. The ICSID is part of and funded by the World Bank Group, headquartered in Washington, D.C., in the United States. It is an autonomous, multilateral specialized institution to encourage international flow of investment and mitigate non-commercial risks by a treaty drafted by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development's executive directors and signed by member countries. As of May 2016, 153 contracting member states agreed to enforce and uphold arbitral awards in accordance with the ICSID Convention. India is not member or contracting party of ICSID.

UNCITRAL

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) (French Commission des Nations Unies pour le droit commercial international (CNUDCI)) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966 "to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of international trade law". India is its member.

Functions-

1. Coordinating the work of active organizations and encouraging cooperation among them.
2. Promoting wider participation in existing international conventions and wider acceptance of existing model and uniform laws.
3. Preparing or promoting the adoption of new international conventions, model laws and uniform laws and promoting the codification and wider acceptance of international trade terms, provisions, customs and practice, in collaboration, where appropriate, with the organizations operating in this field.
4. Promoting ways and means of ensuring a uniform interpretation and application of international conventions and uniform laws in the field of the law of international trade.
5. Collecting and disseminating information on national legislation and modern legal developments, including case law, in the field of the law of international trade.
6. Establishing and maintaining a close collaboration with the UN Conference on Trade and development.
7. Maintaining liaison with other UN organs and specialized agencies concerned with international trade.

ZERO BUDGET FARMING

1. Announced as focus area in this budget in order to double farmers income by 2022.
2. the Economic Survey had also suggested that adoption of 'Zero Budget Natural Farming' along with application of appropriate technologies will make agriculture sustainable for the 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers.
3. This is technically known as Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), as the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations calls it. Zero budget farming is a set of farming methods that involve zero credit for agriculture and no use of chemical fertilisers.

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4. This evolved as a farming movement in Karnataka. The zero budget farming aims at pulling the farmers out of the debt trap that they found themselves in with the liberalisation of Indian economy. This is also an attempt to make small scale farming a viable vocation.
5. Zero budget farming model promises to cut down farming expenditure drastically and ends dependence on loans.
6. It also reduces dependence on purchased inputs as it encourages use of own seeds and locally available natural fertilizers. Farming is done in sync with the nature not through chemical fertilisers.
7. Intercropping i.e. sowing of secondary crops along with main crop to meet the sowing expenditures entirely out of it.

JAL JIVAN MISSION

The government announced constitution of Jal Shakti Mantralaya was a big step in water management and the ministry will look at water-related issues in a holistic manner and will ensure water supply in every household by 2024 as part of Jal Jivan Mission.

ANGEL INVESTOR

1. An angel investor is an individual who provides capital for a business start-up, usually in exchange for convertible debt or ownership equity.
2. Angel investors usually give support to start-ups at the initial moments (where risks of the start-ups failing are relatively high) and when most investors are not prepared to back them.
3. A small but increasing number of angel investors invest online through equity crowdfunding or organize themselves into angel groups or angel networks to share investment capital, as well as to provide advice to their portfolio companies.

JAL SHAKTI MANTRALAYA

The government has created a new Ministry called 'Jal Shakti' after merging Ministries of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation along with Drinking Water and Sanitation.

'Jal Shakti' ministry will encompass issues ranging from providing clean drinking water, international and inter-states water disputes, to the NamamiGange project aimed at cleaning Ganga and its tributaries, and sub-tributaries.

The ministry will roll out the government's ambitious plan ('Nal se Jal' scheme under jaljivan plan) to provide

ANGEL TAX

1. Closely-held private companies receive equity funds from outsiders. When these investments are made at a premium to the fair price, tax laws have so far held that the amount raised in excess to the fair value is taxable. So, angel tax.
2. The amount is reckoned as "income from other sources" and taxed under Section 56 (ii) of the Income Tax Act. The rate of tax was a hefty 30.9 per cent.
3. This was applied not just to mature private companies, but also to small startups that took early-stage investments from residents in India.
4. the Centre has moved to exempt investments made by Indian residents in companies certified as 'innovative' startups, from Angel Tax.

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- To qualify, the venture must fulfil certain criteria on age (not more than five years old), turnover (not exceeding ₹25 crore), purpose (building new product or services), and method (technology or intellectual property). It must also be officially recognised as an 'innovative' startup by the Inter-ministerial Board of Certification.

UNOHCHR

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (commonly known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) is a department of the Secretariat of the United Nations that works to promote and protect the human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.
- The office was established by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1993 in the wake of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.
- It released various reports related with human rights situation India linked with issues like Swaccha Bharat Mission, violence against women and situation Kashmir.

THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

- By the United Nations in Vienna, Austria, on 14 to 25 June 1993.
- It was the first human rights conference held since the end of the Cold War. The main result of the conference was the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
- it replaced the Cold War division of Civil and Political Rights (CPR) apart from Economic Social and Cultural rights (ESCR) with the concept of rights being indivisible

JCPOA

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on July 14, 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) together with the European Union.

Under JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges for 13 years. For the next 15 years Iran will only enrich uranium up to 3.67%. Iran also agreed not to build any new heavy-water facilities.

On 8 May 2018 Trump announced United States withdrawal from JCPOA. On 1 July 2019 Iran announced that it had breached the limit set on its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, which the IAEA confirmed.

THREE STAGES-

- The first stage consists of two S200 solid motors, also known as Large Solid Boosters (LSB) attached to the core stage.
- The second stage, designated L110, is a liquid-fueled stage that is of unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine (UDMH) and nitrogen tetroxide. It is powered by two Vikas 2 engines.
- Third stage or the cryogenic upper stage, designated CE

GSLV MK III

- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk-III) is a three-stage medium-lift

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- launch vehicle developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. Primarily designed to launch communication satellites into geostationary orbit, it is also identified as launch vehicle for crewed missions under the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme and dedicated science missions like Chandrayaan-2.
 3. The GSLV-III has a higher payload capacity than the similarly named GSLV Mk 2.
 4. ISRO successfully conducted the first orbital test launch of GSLV-III on 5 June 2017 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh.
 5. In June 2018, the Union Cabinet approved ₹4,338 crore (US\$630 million) to build 10 GSLV Mk-III rockets over a five-year period.
 6. On 15 August 2018, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his Independence Day speech an Indian foray into human spaceflight in 2022 with the aim of sending a crewed spacecraft called Gaganyaan to low Earth orbit.
 7. The GSLV Mk III launched Chandrayaan-2 on 22 July 2019.

VIENNA CODE ON CONSULAR RELATION

1. The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 is an international treaty that defines a framework for consular relations between independent states. A consul normally operates out of an embassy in another country, and performs two functions:
 - a) protecting in the host country the interests of their countrymen
 - b) furthering the commercial and economic relations between the two states.
2. The treaty contains 79 articles.
3. In Kulbhushan Jadhav case ICJ decided that Pakistan is violating Article 36 which addresses communications between consular officers and nationals of the sending state.
4. The Convention provides that "consular officers shall be free to communicate with nationals of the sending State and to have access to them."
5. Foreign nationals who are arrested or detained be given notice "without delay" of their right to have their embassy or consulate notified of that arrest, and "consular officers shall have the right to visit a national of the sending State who is in prison, custody or detention, to converse and correspond with him and to arrange for his legal representation.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF PDS (IMPDS)

1. 'End to End Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations'
2. "Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS)" for implementation during 2018-19 and 2019-20.
3. The main objective of the scheme is to introduce nation-wide portability of ration card holders under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA), to lift their entitlement foodgrains from any FPS of their choice in the country without the need of obtaining a new ration card, by integrating the existing PDS systems/portals of States/UTs with the Central systems/portals under Central Repository of all NFSA ration cards/beneficiaries thereby enabling One Nation One Ration Card system.

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4. The central repository also ensures that no duplicate ration card/beneficiary exist in any State/UT under NFSA. In this regard, so far Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed for the implementation of IM-PDS scheme with 26 States/UTs.
5. Further, at present the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Chhattisgarh (partially) and Madhya Pradesh (partially) have introduced intra-State level portability of ration card holders to lift the foodgrains from any FPS within the State.
6. Address challenges such as leakage and diversion of foodgrains, inclusion/exclusion errors, fake and bogus ration cards, Government is implementing a scheme on “End-to-End Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations”.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE: PINK CITY JAIPUR

1. Jaipur City, Rajasthan got inscribed on the World Heritage List of UNESCO during the 43rd Session of the World Heritage Committee held at Baku, Azerbaijan.
2. With Successful inscription of Jaipur City, India has 38 world heritage sites , that include 30 Cultural properties, 7 Natural properties and 1 mixed site.
3. Besides an exemplary planning, its iconic monuments such as the Govind Dev temple, City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal excel in artistic and architectural craftsmanship of the period.

BANK MITRAS/BANKING CORRESPONDENTS

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched with the objective to inter-alia provide universal access to banking facilities.
2. Under the scheme all rural and semi-urban areas were mapped into 1.59 lakh Sub-Service Areas (SSAs) where one SSA catering to 1,000 to 1,500 households.
3. While 0.33 lakh SSAs have been covered with bank branches, 1.26 lakh SSAs, have been covered by deployment of interoperable Bank Mitras. Bank Mitras provide banking services to customers including financial transactions.

MAINTENANCE OF CAR BY BANKS

1. As per RBI guidelines, banks are required to maintain a minimum Capital to Risk-weighted Assets (CRAR) of 9% on an ongoing basis.
2. As per RBI's Financial Stability Report (FSR) of June 2019, as on 31.3.2019, the CRAR, for Scheduled Commercial Banks (which include both PSBs and Private Sector Banks) and PSBs was 14.3% and 12.2% respectively.
3. NPAs in the banking system peaked in March 2018 and have since declined to 9.3% in March 2019, signalling a turnaround in the NPA cycle.

ORGAN DONATION LAW

1. “People’s participation and people’s awareness is the key for encouraging organ donation.”
2. silver jubilee year of The Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994
3. National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is nodal agency under act

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4. states to share their data with NOTTO so that National Donor and Recipient Registries can be maintained at the central level.
5. launched the online system for the objective of “Million for a Billion” pledges.

CHILD LABOUR

1. As per information received from the District Project Societies set up under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, a total number of 320488 children were rescued from all forms of child labour, and were rehabilitated and mainstreamed to formal education system during the last five years.
2. Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy.
3. For elimination of child labour, the Government has enacted-
 - a. the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016
 - b. The Amendment Act inter alia provides for complete prohibition of work or employment of children below 14 years in any occupation and process and prohibition of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes.
 - c. The Amendment Act also provides stricter punishment for employers for violation of the Act and has made the offence as cognizable.
 - d. The Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988 for rehabilitation of child labour.
 - e. Under the NCLP Scheme, children in the age group of 9-14 years are rescued/withdrawn from work and enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system.
 - f. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
 - g. To ensure effective enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour Act and smooth implementation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, a separate online portal **PENCIL** (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour) has been launched w.e.f. 26.9.2017.
 - h. As per Section 2 (14) (ii) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) act, 2015 (JJ Act), a child who is found living in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force is included as a ‘child in need of care and protection’, the JJ Act, 2015 mandates a security net of service delivery structures to provide institutional and non-institutional care to these children.
 - i. The primary responsibility of execution of the Act, as such, lies with the State/UTs.
 - j. Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing ‘Child Protection Services’ (CPS) (erstwhile Integrated Child Protection Scheme), for care, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children in difficult circumstances.
 - k. Under CPS, financial assistance is provided to State Governments/UT Administrations, for, inter alia, undertaking a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances, for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

NATIONAL REGISTER FOR TRANSPORT

1. The Centralized National Registry for transport, maintained by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through National Informatics Centre (NIC) comprises approximately 25 crore vehicle registration records and approximately 15 crore driving licence records.
2. the Government has provided access to this data to 32 Government entities and 87 private entities.
3. provided 'Bulk Data Sharing Policy & Procedure' for sharing certain fields in bulk data of vehicle registration. The organization seeking bulk data can obtain the data with an amount of Rs. three crore for the FY 2019-20. Educational institutions can obtain the data only for research purposes and for internal use only and are provided the bulk data one time on payment of an amount of Rs. five lakh only for the FY 2019-20
4. Government has linked VAHAN and SARATHI with stolen vehicles data from National Crime Record Bureau.

BHARATMALA PROJECTS ALONG INDO-NEPAL BORDER AREAS

1. The Government of India has approved Phase-I of BharatmalaPariyojana with financial outlay of Rs 5,35,000 crore to develop 24,800 km Highways along with 10,000 km residual NHDP stretches over a period of five years.
2. In BharatmalaPariyojana Phase-I, development of Border & International Connectivity roads for a length of 2000 km has also been envisaged with outlay of Rs 25,000 crore.
3. Along Indo-Nepal Border, the project i.e. balance work of Piprakothi-Motihari-Raxaul on NH-28A of about 69 km length has been awarded

KISAN SUVIDHA MOBILE APP

1. Kisan Suvidha Mobile App and Pusa Krishi Mobile App have 10,63,080 and 40,753 downloads respectively since their launch.
2. The following services and information are available on Kisan Suvidha Mobile application:
 - a. Weather Forecast
 - b. Extreme Weather Alert
 - c. Market Price of commodities
 - d. Dealers - Fertilizer, Seeds, Pesticide, Seeds etc.
 - e. Plant protection for 12 major crops
 - f. Agro advisories
 - g. Soil Health card
 - h. Soil testing labs
 - i. Cold Stores & Godowns
 - j. Vet Labs & Diagnostic Centres
 - k. Crop Insurance
 - l. Government Schemes

WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME

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1. Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 provides for protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment and protection measures inter alia include protection/change of identity of witnesses, their relocation, installation of security devices at the residence of witnesses, usage of specially designed Court rooms, etc.
2. The Scheme provides for three categories of witness as per threat perception:
 - a. Category 'A': Where the threat extends to life of witness or his family members, during investigation/trial or thereafter.
 - b. Category 'B': Where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or his family members, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.
 - c. Category 'C': Where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or his family member's, reputation or property, during the investigation/trial or thereafter.
 - d. The Scheme provides for a State Witness Protection Fund for meeting the expenses of the scheme. This fund shall be operated by the Department/Ministry of Home under State/UT Government and shall comprise of the following:
3. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in 2018 had declared the need and guidelines Witness Protection Scheme

SECOND INDIA-RUSSIA STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DIALOGUE

1. The Second India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue (IRSED) was held in New Delhi.
2. The Second meeting of the IRSED focussed on six core areas of cooperation, namely, Development of Transport Infrastructure and Technologies; Development of Agriculture and Agro-Processing sector; Small and Medium Business support; Digital Transformation and Frontier Technologies; Cooperation in Trade, Banking, Finance, and Industry; and Tourism & Connectivity.

NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY

1. The Government of India has approved a project to build the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Pottipuram in the Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
2. Briefly, the project aims to set up a 51000 ton Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector to observe naturally occurring atmospheric neutrinos in a cavern at the end of an approximately 2 km long tunnel in a mountain.
3. This will help to reduce the noise from cosmic rays that is ever present over-ground and which would outnumber the rare neutrino interactions even in a detector as large as ICAL.
4. The INO project does not disturb the ecosystem around the site and does not release any radiation, as it does not have any radioactive substance. It measures cosmic rays.
5. There is no other neutrino detector anywhere in India at present. ICAL at INO would be the first of its type.

STATUS REPORT ON MALNUTRITION OF CHILDREN

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1. Malnutrition is not a direct cause of death among children under five years of age, however, it can increase morbidity and mortality by reducing resistance to infections. Malnourished children are more vulnerable than normal children to any infection.
2. The Government has accorded high priority to the issue of malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/programmes of different Ministries/Departments through States/UTs to address various aspects related to nutrition.
3. This Ministry is implementing-
 - a. POSHAN Abhiyaan
 - b. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
 - c. Anganwadi Services
 - d. Scheme for Adolescent Girls under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition among children and women in all States/UTs of the country.

SWADHAR GREH SCHEME

1. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the SwadharGreh Scheme for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.
2. The scheme covers women who are deserted and without any social and economic support, women victims of domestic violence, family tension and natural disaster.
3. Besides the above, Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme which is envisaged to provide 24 hours emergency and non-emergency response to women affected by violence, both in public and private spaces by linking them with appropriate authorities such as police, One Stop Centres, hospital and legal services.
4. Under the 'One Stop Centre Scheme', One Stop Centres for violence affected women across the country as part of the Nirbhaya Framework, are established with the help of States/UTs for providing legal and psycho-social counselling along with other facilities including temporary shelter, police facilitation and medical support to the women needing the same under one roof in an integrated manner.

LaQshya

1. Government of India has launched "LaQshya" (Labour room Quality improvement Initiative) to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities.
2. It's a multipronged approach focused at Intrapartum and immediate postpartum period.
3. Aim: To reduce preventable maternal and newborn mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity Operation Theatre and ensure respectful maternity care.
4. Objectives:
 - a. To reduce maternal and newborn mortality & morbidity due to hemorrhage, retained placenta, preterm, preeclampsia and eclampsia, obstructed labour, puerperal sepsis, newborn asphyxia, and newborn sepsis, etc.

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- b. To improve Quality of care during the delivery and immediate post-partum care, stabilization of complications and ensure timely referrals, and enable an effective two-way follow-up system.
 - c. To enhance satisfaction of beneficiaries visiting the health facilities and provide Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) to all pregnant women attending the public health facilities.
5. Following types of healthcare facilities have been identified for implementation of LaQshya program
- a. Government medical college hospitals.
 - b. District Hospitals & equivalent health facilities.
 - c. Designated FRUs and high case load CHCs with over 100 deliveries/month (60 in hills and desert areas)

ANGANWADI SEVIKAS

1. The total number of Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers sanctioned in the country are 1399697 and 1282847 respectively.
2. The Anganwadi Services {under Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme} envisages the Anganwadi Workers & Helpers as honorary workers from local community who come forward to render their services, on part time basis, in the area of child care and development.
3. The Government of India has recently enhanced the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) at main-Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) from Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 4,500/- per month; AWWs at mini-AWCs from Rs. 2,250/- to Rs. 3,500/- per month; Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) from Rs 1,500/- to Rs. 2,250/- per month; and introduced performance linked incentive of Rs. 250/- per month to AWHs, effective from 1st October, 2018.
4. In addition, the AWWs and AWHs are also entitled for paid absence of 180 days of maternity leave, two sets of uniform per year, insurance coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (for 18-50 years age functionaries), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (for 18-59 years age functionaries) and Anganwadi Karyakarta Bima Yojana (for 51-59 years age functionaries)
5. The training is provided to the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) at the Anganwadi Workers Training Centres (AWTCs) under ICDS Training Programme.
6. AWWs are provided Job Training course for a duration of 26 working days. In case of back log, Induction training with a shorter duration of 5 working days is conducted for placing functionaries in to job prior to their job training.
7. The e-ILA software is developed as a comprehensive training and evaluation web-based learning portal for the field workers. This is in addition to ongoing face-to-face ILA.

ADOPTION OF METHODS OF IRRIGATION

1. The net sown area in the country is 140130 thousand ha and net irrigated area is 68385 thousand ha.
2. As per available information, the area covered under drip irrigation is 4374.53 thousand ha.
3. An Impact evaluation study of Micro Irrigation scheme-

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- a. Irrigation cost is reduced by 20% to 50% with average of 32.3%.
- b. Electricity consumption is reduced by about 31%.
- c. Saving of fertilizers in the range of 7% to 42%.
- d. Average productivity of fruits and vegetables increased by about 42.3% and 52.8%.
- e. Overall income enhancement of farmers in the range of 20% to 68% with an average of 48.5%.
- f. Water use efficiency of Micro Irrigation including drip irrigation is as high as 80 to 95% in comparison to only 30-50% in conventional flood irrigation resulting in considerable amount of saving irrigation water under drip irrigation

INCREDIBLE INDIA CAMPAIGN WINS PATA GOLD AWARD 2019

1. The Incredible India "Find the Incredible You" campaign released globally by the Ministry of Tourism during 2018-19 has been declared winner of the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019 in the "Marketing - Primary Government Destination" category.
2. The Ministry of Tourism, as part of its promotional initiatives annually releases Global Media Campaigns under the 'Incredible India' brand-line in the Television, Print, Digital and Social Media, in key and potential source markets overseas.

REPORT OF UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AND POSHAN ABHIYAN

1. The report prepared in collaboration between Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and World Food Programme
2. The analysis shows annual decline in rate of stunting during the period 2005-2006 to 2015-16.
3. As per the Report of Nutritional Intake in India, 2011-12 published under 68th round of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the average dietary energy intake per person per day was 2233 Kcal for rural India and 2206 Kcal for urban India, which is lower than Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) of 2320 Kcal.
4. The Government has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan on 18.12.2017 for a three year time frame, commencing from 2017-18.
5. The Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition in the Country in a phased manner, through a life cycle approach, by adopting a synergised and result oriented approach.
6. The Abhiyaan will ensure mechanisms for timely service delivery and a robust monitoring as well as intervention infrastructure.
7. The target of the Abhiyaan is to reduce stunting in children (0-6 years), under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years) and Low Birth Weight @2% per annum and reduce anaemia among young children (6-59 months), women and adolescent girls @3% per annum across the country.
8. The major works undertaken under this Abhiyaan are ensuring convergence with various other programmes; Information Technology enabled Common Application Software for strengthening service delivery and interventions; Community Mobilization and Awareness Advocacy leading to Jan Andolan- to educate the people on nutritional aspects; Capacity Building of Frontline Functionaries and incentivizing States/ UTs for achieving goals.

RESTRUCTURING OF ICDS

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1. several schemes and programs like Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna under the Umbrella **Integrated Child Development Services Scheme** as direct targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country.
2. **POSHAN Abhiyaan** has been set up to act as an apex body for monitoring and guiding the nutrition related issues of various government schemes.
3. **Anganwadi Services scheme** provides six child development related services i.e.
 - a. Supplementary Nutrition
 - b. Pre-school Education
 - c. Health & Nutrition Education
 - d. Immunization
 - e. Health check-up
 - f. Referral Services
4. The services are provided at the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) to more than 8.75 crore beneficiaries.
5. Under **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, maternity benefit of ₹ 5,000/- is provided in three installments to eligible PW&LM during the period of pregnancy and lactation.
6. The eligible beneficiary also receive the cash incentive as per approved norms towards maternity benefit under **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman gets ₹ 6,000/-.
7. **Scheme for Adolescent Girls** is implemented to improve the nutritional and health status of out of school adolescent girls of age 11-14 years and to upgrade their skills.
8. The scheme is implemented in all the districts of the country w.e.f 01.04.2018. Nutrition support @ Rs. 9.5 per beneficiary per day for 300 days in a year is provided under the scheme.
9. In addition, to providing nutritional support to the adolescent girls, the scheme aims to motivate out of school girls to go back to formal schooling /skill training under its Non –Nutrition component.
10. Information on health, hygiene and guidance on existing public services is provided under the scheme.
11. The revision/revamping of the ICDS Scheme is a continuous process. In the beginning of 12th Five Year Plan, the Scheme was restructured with introduction of several components for strengthening and widening the scope of delivery of services. Further in 2017, a number of initiatives have been introduced i.e. construction of Anganwadi Centre Buildings in convergence with MGNREGS, provision of toilet and drinking water facilities in Anganwadi Centres.

IMPLEMENTATION OF KRISHONNATI YOJANA

The 'Green Revolution - Krishonnati Yojana' was approved coterminous with the period of the Fourteenth Finance Commission from 2017-18 to 2019-20. 'Green Revolution– Krishonnati Yojana' is an Umbrella Scheme comprising both Central Sector as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Missions. This Umbrella Scheme has the following twelve Schemes/Missions:

- (1) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH);
- (2) National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP);

- (3) National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
- (4) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA);
- (5) Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE);
- (6) Sub-Mission on Seeds & Planting Material (SMSP);
- (7) Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM);
- (8) Sub-Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ);
- (9) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Census, Economics and Statistics;
- (10) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation;
- (11) Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM);
- (12) National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture (NeGP-A).

UN CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS (UNISA)

1. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) resulting from mediation by the Republic of India scheduled to be held at Singapore on 7th August, 2019, or at United Nations Headquarters.
2. Benefit: Signing of the Convention will boost the confidence of the investors and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).
3. Initiatives to promote ADR Mechanisms: In order to encourage international commercial arbitration in India, to evolve a comprehensive ecosystem of arbitration the Government is establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) as a statutory body.
4. The Commercial Courts Act, 2015, has been further amended and legislative exercise to further amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, is currently underway.
5. These initiatives are being taken with a view to encourage the settlement of commercial disputes, domestic and international, in India through ADR Mechanism of Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation.
6. A new Chapter (IIIA) has been inserted in the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, for mandatory pre-institution mediation and settlement in certain category of cases. Therefore, the provisions of the 'Convention' are in line with the domestic laws and the efforts made to strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.
7. Background: The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation ("the Convention") on 20th December 2018. The General Assembly authorized that the Convention will open for signature at a signing ceremony to be held on 7th August 2019 in Singapore and will be known as the "Singapore Convention on Mediation" (the Convention).

THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION BILL, 2019

1. The Bill seeks to repeal the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and provide for a medical education system which ensures: (i) availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals, (ii) adoption of the latest medical research by medical professionals, (iii) periodic assessment of medical institutions, and (iv) an effective grievance redressal mechanism.
2. Key features of the Bill include:
 - a. Constitution of the National Medical Commission: The Bill sets up the National Medical Commission (NMC).
 - b. Within three years of the passage of the Bill, state governments will establish State Medical Councils at the state level.
 - c. The NMC will consist of 25 members, appointed by the central government.
 - d. A Search Committee will recommend names to the central government for the post of Chairperson, and the part time members.
 - e. The Search Committee will consist of seven members including the Cabinet Secretary and five experts nominated by the central government (of which three will have experience in the medical field).
 - f. Members of the NMC will include:
 - (i) the Chairperson (must be a medical practitioner)
 - (ii) Presidents of the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Medical Education Boards
 - (iii) the Director General of Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services
 - (iv) the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research
 - (v) five members (part-time) to be elected by the registered medical practitioners from amongst themselves from states and union territories for a period of two years.
 - g. Functions of the National Medical Commission: Functions of the NMC include:
 - (i) framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals
 - (ii) assessing the requirements of healthcare related human resources and infrastructure
 - (iii) ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils of the regulations made under the Bill
 - (iv) framing guidelines for determination of fees for up to 50% of the seats in private medical institutions and deemed universities which are regulated under the Bill.
 - h. Medical Advisory Council: Under the Bill, the central government will constitute a Medical Advisory Council.
 - i. The Council will be the primary platform through which the states/union territories can put forth their views and concerns before the NMC. Further, the Council will advise the NMC on measures to determine and maintain minimum standards of medical education.
 - j. Autonomous boards: The Bill sets up autonomous boards under the supervision of the NMC. Each autonomous board will consist of a President and four members, appointed by the central government.
 - k. These boards are:
 - (i) the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) and the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB): These Boards will be responsible for formulating

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- standards, curriculum, guidelines, and granting recognition to medical qualifications at the undergraduate and post graduate levels respectively.
- (ii) The Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB): MARB will have the power to levy monetary penalties on medical institutions which fail to maintain the minimum standards as laid down by the UGMEB and PGMEB. The MARB will also grant permission for establishing a new medical college, starting any postgraduate course, or increasing the number of seats.
 - (iii) The Ethics and Medical Registration Board: This Board will maintain a National Register of all licensed medical practitioners, and regulate professional conduct. Only those included in the Register will be allowed to practice medicine. The Board will also maintain a separate National Register for community health providers.
 - l) Community health providers: Under the Bill, the NMC may grant a limited license to certain mid-level practitioners connected with the modern medical profession to practice medicine. These mid-level practitioners may prescribe specified medicines in primary and preventive healthcare. In any other cases, these practitioners may only prescribe medicines under the supervision of a registered medical practitioner.
 - m) Entrance examinations: There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate and post-graduate super-speciality medical education in all medical institutions regulated under the Bill. The NMC will specify the manner of conducting common counselling for admission in all such medical institutions.
 - n) The Bill proposes a common final year undergraduate examination called the National Exit Test for the students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the license for practice. This test will also serve as the basis for admission into post-graduate courses at medical institutions under this Bill.

THE COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

1. It amends the Companies Act, 2013.
2. Issuance of dematerialised shares: Under the Act, certain classes of public companies are required to issue shares in dematerialised form only. The Bill states this may be prescribed for other classes of unlisted companies as well.
3. Re-categorisation of certain Offences: The 2013 Act contains 81 compoundable offences punishable with fine or fine or imprisonment, or both. These offences are heard by courts. The Bill re-categorizes 16 of these offences as civil defaults, where adjudicating officers (appointed by the central government) may now levy penalties instead. These offences include: (i) issuance of shares at a discount, and (ii) failure to file annual return. Further, the Bill amends the penalties for some other offences.
4. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): Under the Act, if companies which have to provide for CSR, do not fully spent the funds, they must disclose the reasons for non-spending in their annual report.
5. Under the Bill, any unspent annual CSR funds must be transferred to one of the funds under Schedule 7 of the Act (e.g., PM Relief Fund) within six months of the financial year.

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6. However, if the CSR funds are committed to certain ongoing projects, then the unspent funds will have to be transferred to an Unspent CSR Account within 30 days of the end of the financial year, and spent within three years. Any funds remaining unspent after three years will have to be transferred to one of the funds under Schedule 7 of the Act.
7. Any violation may attract a fine between Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,00,000 and every defaulting officer may be punished with imprisonment of up to three years or fine between Rs 50,000 and Rs 25,00,000, or both.
8. Debaring auditors: Under the Act, the National Financial Reporting Authority debar a member or firm from practising as a Chartered Accountant for a period between six months to 10 years, for proven misconduct.
9. The Bill amends the punishment to provide for debarment from appointment as an auditor or internal auditor of a company, or performing a company's valuation, for a period between six months to 10 years.
10. Commencement of business: The Bill states that a company may not commence business, unless it (i) files a declaration within 180 days of incorporation, confirming that every subscriber to the Memorandum of the company has paid for the shares agreed to be taken by him, and (ii) files a verification of its registered address with the RoC within 30 days of incorporation. If it fails to comply with these provisions and is found not to be carrying out business, its name of the company may be removed from the Register of Companies.
11. Registration of charges: The Act requires companies to register charges (e.g., mortgages) on their property within 30 days of creation of charge, extendable upto 300 days with the permission of the RoC. The Bill changes the deadline to 60 days (extendable by 60 days).
12. Change in approving authority: Under the Act, change in period of financial year for a company associated with a foreign company, has to be approved by the National Company Law Tribunal. Similarly, any alteration in the incorporation document of a public company which has the effect of converting it to a private company, has to be approved by the Tribunal. Under the Bill, these powers have been transferred to central government.
13. Compounding: Under the Act, a regional director can compound (settle) offences with a penalty of up to five lakh rupees. The Bill increases this ceiling to Rs 25 lakh.
14. Bar on holding office: Under the Act, the central government or certain shareholders can apply to the NCLT for relief against mismanagement of the affairs of the company. The Bill states that in such a complaint, the government may also make a case against an officer of the company on the ground that he is not fit to hold office in the company, for reasons such as fraud or negligence. If the NCLT passes an order against the officer, he will not be eligible to hold office in any company for five years.
15. Beneficial ownership: If a person holds beneficial interest of at least 25% shares in a company or exercises significant influence or control over the company, he is required to make a declaration of his interest.

THE CODE ON WAGES, 2019

1. It seeks to regulate wage and bonus payments in all employments where any industry, trade, business, or manufacture is carried out.

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2. The Code replaces the following four laws:
 - (i) the Payment of Wages Act, 1936
 - (ii) the Minimum Wages Act, 1948
 - (iii) the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
 - (iv) the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
3. Coverage: The Code will apply to all employees. The central government will make wage-related decisions for employments such as railways, mines, and oil fields, among others. State governments will make decisions for all other employments.
4. Wages include salary, allowance, or any other component expressed in monetary terms. This does not include bonus payable to employees or any travelling allowance, among others.
5. **Floor wage:** According to the Code, the central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account living standards of workers. Further, it may set different floor wages for different geographical areas. Before fixing the floor wage, the central government may obtain the advice of the Central Advisory Board and may consult with state governments.
6. The **minimum wages** decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage. In case the existing minimum wages fixed by the central or state governments are higher than the floor wage, they cannot reduce the minimum wages.
7. Fixing the minimum wage: The Code prohibits employers from paying wages less than the minimum wages.
8. Minimum wages will be notified by the central or state governments. This will be based on time, or number of pieces produced.
9. The minimum wages will be revised and reviewed by the central or state governments at an interval of not more than five years.
10. While fixing minimum wages, the central or state governments may take into account factors such as: (i) skill of workers, and (ii) difficulty of work.
11. Overtime: The central or state government may fix the number of hours that constitute a normal working day. In case employees work in excess of a normal working day, they will be entitled to overtime wage, which must be at least twice the normal rate of wages.
12. Payment of wages: Wages will be paid in (i) coins, (ii) currency notes, (iii) by cheque, (iv) by crediting to the bank account, or (v) through electronic mode. The wage period will be fixed by the employer as either: (i) daily, (ii) weekly, (iii) fortnightly, or (iv) monthly.
13. Deductions: Under the Code, an employee's wages may be deducted on certain grounds including: (i) fines, (ii) absence from duty, (iii) accommodation given by the employer, or (iv) recovery of advances given to the employee, among others. These deductions should not exceed 50% of the employee's total wage.
14. Determination of bonus: All employees whose wages do not exceed a specific monthly amount, notified by the central or state government, will be entitled to an annual bonus. The bonus will be at least: (i) 8.33% of his wages, or (ii) Rs 100, whichever is higher. In addition, the employer will distribute a part of the gross profits amongst the employees. This will be distributed in proportion to the annual wages of an employee. An employee can receive a maximum bonus of 20% of his annual wages.

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15. Gender discrimination: The Code prohibits gender discrimination in matters related to wages and recruitment of employees for the same work or work of similar nature. Work of similar nature is defined as work for which the skill, effort, experience, and responsibility required are the same.
16. Advisory boards: The central and state governments will constitute advisory boards. The Central Advisory Board will consist of: (i) employers, (ii) employees (in equal number as employers), (iii) independent persons, and (iv) five representatives of state governments. State Advisory Boards will consist of employers, employees, and independent persons. Further, one-third of the total members on both the central and state Boards will be women. The Boards will advise the respective governments on various issues including: (i) fixation of minimum wages, and (ii) increasing employment opportunities for women.
17. Offences: The Code specifies penalties for offences committed by an employer, such as (i) paying less than the due wages, or (ii) for contravening any provision of the Code. Penalties vary depending on the nature of offence, with the maximum penalty being imprisonment for three months along with a fine of up to one lakh rupees.

THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2019

1. The Bill amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
2. The Act provides special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, among other things.
3. Who may commit terrorism: Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation as a terrorist organisation if it: (i) commits or participates in acts of terrorism, (ii) prepares for terrorism, (iii) promotes terrorism, or (iv) is otherwise involved in terrorism.
4. The new amendment Bill additionally empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists on the same grounds.
5. Approval for seizure of property by NIA: Under the Act, an investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police to seize properties that may be connected with terrorism.
6. The amendment Bill adds that if the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
7. Investigation by NIA: Under the Act, investigation of cases may be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above.
8. The amendment Bill additionally empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
9. Insertion to schedule of treaties: The Act defines terrorist acts to include acts committed within the scope of any of the treaties listed in a schedule to the Act. The Schedule lists nine treaties, including the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997), and the Convention against Taking of Hostages (1979). The Bill adds another treaty to the list. This is the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005).