

Important Terms in 11th September -2020 News

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Pangong Tso Lake:

- Pangong Lake is located in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- It is situated at a height of almost 4,350m and is the world's highest saltwater lake.
- Extending to almost 160km, one-third of the Pangong Lake lies in India and the other two-thirds in China.

The Central Pollution Control Board:

- CPCB is a statutory organisation which was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

NGT:

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.

NHRC:

- NHRC of India is an independent statutory body established on 12 October, 1993 as per provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, later amended in 2006.
- NHRC has celebrated its Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. Its headquarter is located in New Delhi.
- It is the watchdog of human rights in the country, i.e. the rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by Indian Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

- It was established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for the promotion and protection of human rights in Paris (October, 1991) and endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 December, 1993.

Nyuntam Aay Yojana [NYAY]:

- This would be a flat transfer of Rs6,000 a month to identified poor households.
- There has been little word on how the Congress expects to finance NYAY.
- A ballpark estimate of the fiscal expenditure, to transfer Rs.72,000 every year to the poorest 20% of the approximately 25 crore Indian households, would be Rs3.6 lakh crore.
- This is twice the estimated amount set aside for food subsidy and five times that for fertilizer subsidy in the 2019-20 Union Budget.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:

- Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Acts ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
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Important Terms in 10th September -2020 News

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Indo-Pacific Strategy:-

- First time the term 'Indo Pacific' was used by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Indian soil in 2007. Then, he said that there is connect between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- After about ten years, the President of the United States used this term during his visit to East Asia. He repeatedly used this term instead of 'Asia Pacific'. The motive is to ensure that all the countries in the region are working in a direction to make it an open, free, inclusive, prosperous and rule based Indo Pacific system.
- It is a very rich region in terms of natural resources (fisheries, oil, gas) as well as mineral resources.
- About 3.5 trillion dollars international trade flows through the South China Sea.
- Trade of some of the major economies like China, Japan, Korea or the west coast of the United States goes through the South China Sea.
- About 50% of India's trade is conducted through the South China Sea.

Convalescent Plasma Therapy:-

- Convalescent plasma (CP) therapy is not a new therapy and based on the age-old concept of passive immunity.
- The convalescent plasma therapy seeks to make use of the antibodies developed in the recovered patient against the virus.
- The whole blood or plasma from such people is taken, and the plasma is then injected in critically ill patients so that the antibodies are transferred and boost their fight against the virus.

Marathas:-

- It is a politically dominant community in Maharashtra comprising mainly peasants and landowners and forms nearly one-third of the population of the state.
- Majority of the Chief Ministers of the state have been from this community since the formation of the state in 1960.
- Marathas are mostly Marathi-speaking but not all Marathi-speaking people belong to the Maratha community.
- Historically, they have been identified as a 'warrior' caste with large land-holdings.
- While the division of land and agrarian problems over the years has led to a decline of prosperity among the middle class and lower-middle-class Marathas, the community still plays an important role in the rural economy.

BT-COTTON:-

- Bt cotton is an insect-resistant transgenic crop designed to combat the bollworm.
- Bt cotton was created by genetically altering the cotton genome to express a microbial protein from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*.
- In short, the transgene inserted into the plant's genome produces toxin crystals that the plant would not normally produce which, when ingested by a certain population of organisms, dissolves the gut lining, leading to the organism's death.

EASE Banking Reforms Index:-

- EASE stands for 'Enhanced Access and Service Excellence'. The index is prepared by the Indian Banking Association (IBA) and Boston Consulting Group.
- It is commissioned by the Finance Ministry.
- It is a framework that was adopted last year to strengthen public sector banks and rank them on metrics such as responsible banking, financial inclusion, credit offtake and digitization.

ARISE ANIC Initiative:-

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, has launched Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-Atal New India Challenges, to spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.
- The program is a national initiative to promote research & innovation and increase the competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs.
- Its objective is to proactively collaborate with esteemed Ministries and the associated industries to catalyze research, innovation and facilitate innovative solutions to sectoral problems.
- It also aims to provide a steady stream of innovative products & solutions where the Central Government Ministries / Departments will become the potential first buyers.

- It is in line with the PM's mandate of "Make in India", "Startup India", and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" to fast track the growth of the Indian MSME sector.
- The programme will be driven by ISRO, four ministries—Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It will support deserving applied research-based innovations by providing funding support of up to Rs 50 lakh for speedy development of the proposed technology solution and/or product.

Legal entity:-

- A legal entity means an entity which acts like a natural person but only through a designated person, whose acts are processed within the ambit of law. This means the animal kingdom could be represented by a custodian.
- In common law jurisprudence, there are two types of persons:
 - Natural persons or human beings and
 - Artificial persons which are also known as juristic persons, juridical entity or legal person other than natural person.
- Legal or juristic persons are created by law and recognised as legal entity.
- It is having distinct identity, legal personality and besides duties and rights.
- They include private business firm or entity, non-governmental or government organisations, trusts and societies, besides others.
- Previous living entities:-Uttarakhand high court in March 2017 accorded the status of "living entity" to the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, a decision subsequently stayed by the Supreme Court.

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NSSO:

- The NSSO was set up in 1950 to conduct large-scale sample surveys throughout India. The employees of the NSSO are from the Indian Statistical Service (appointed through the UPSC) and the Subordinate Statistical Service (appointed through the Staff Selection Commission).

- It is earlier known as the Central Statistics Organisation of India, CSO is responsible for the coordination of statistical activities in India, and evolving and maintaining statistical standards.

SCO:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It was created in 2001.
- The SCO Charter was signed in 2002, and entered into force in 2003.
- It is a statutory document which outlines the organisation's goals and principles, as well as its structure and core activities.
- The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.

Boilerplate:

- The term boilerplate or boilerplate text refers to text, or a standardized document, method, or procedure.
- "Boilerplating" is sometimes used disparagingly to refer to a lack of originality or sincere effort.
- In the field of contract law, documents containing boilerplate language, or language that is considered generic or standard in contracts.

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1)Hypersonic cruise vehicle:

- Hypersonic vehicles fly faster than five times the speed of sound.
- This can enable faster access to space, rapid military response at long range, and even commercial air travel.
- Traditionally, rocket boosters have been used for hypersonic vehicles.
- A hypersonic vehicle can be an airplane, missile, or spacecraft.

2) CRPF:

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is one of the premier Central Armed Police Forces of India (under the Ministry of Home Affairs) for internal security. The other Central Armed Police Forces are as follow:

- Assam Rifles (AR): The Assam Rifles came into being in 1835, as a militia called the 'Cachar Levy'.
- Border Security Force (BSF): Responsible for guarding India's land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF): Provides security cover to nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants, sensitive Government buildings and ever heritage monuments.
- Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP): ITBP is a specialized mountain force and most of the officers and men are professionally trained mountaineers and skiers.
- National Security Guard (NSG): The National Security Guard (NSG) is a counter terrorism unit which was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star.
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB): Earlier Special Service Bureau was raised in 1960s with the sole objective of achieving 'Total security preparedness' in the remote border areas for performing a 'stay-behind' role in the event of a war.

3) LAC:

- The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.
- For India the LAC is 3,488 km long, while China considers it to be only around 2,000 km.
- It is divided into three sectors: the eastern sector which includes Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh.
- LAC in the eastern sector consisting of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim is called the 1McMahon Line which is 1,140 km long.
- The McMahon Line was a negotiation between India and Tibet under Simla Convention of 1913-1914, without the participation of the Chinese government and China considers the McMahon Line illegal and unacceptable.

4) FIR:

- First Information Report (FIR) is a written document prepared by the police when they receive information about the commission of a cognizable offence.

- It is a report of information that reaches the police first in point of time and that is why it is called the First Information Report.

5) IMD:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
- It is national meteorological service of the country and chief government agency dealing in everything related to meteorology, seismology and associated subjects.

Important Terms in 7th September -2020 News

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RCEP:

- The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega-regional economic agreement being negotiated since 2012, between ASEAN and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) member partners.
- It aims to cover the trade in goods and services, investment, economic and technical cooperation, intellectual property and dispute resolution.

ESCAP:

- The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.
- Established: 1947
- Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand
- Objective: ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States.

Paris Agreement:

- Paris Agreement is an international agreement to combat climate change.
- From 30 November to 11 December 2015, the governments of 195 nations gathered in Paris, France, and discussed a possible new global agreement on climate change, aimed at reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduce the threat of dangerous climate change.
- The 32-page Paris agreement with 29 articles is widely recognized as a historic deal to stop global warming.

AGI:

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- Appointment and Eligibility:
 - AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.
 - S/he must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, i.e. s/he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- Term of the Office: Not fixed by the Constitution.

Yakshagana:

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka.
- It is a temple art form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
- It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).

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International criminal court:

- The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
- Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.
- **Funding:** Although the Court's expenses are funded primarily by States Parties, it also receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and other entities.

DNA:

- DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the inherited material found in every single living creature.
- The deoxyribonucleic acid in an individual's chromosomes controls a variety of visible characteristics and invisible characteristics.
- Visible characteristics include race, coloring and sex. An invisible characteristic includes blood groups and susceptibility to inherited diseases.

FDI:

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or an individual in one country into business interests located in another country. FDI is an important driver of economic growth.
- FDI is when a foreign entity acquires ownership or controlling stake in the shares of a company in one country, or establishes businesses there.

Zilla parishad:

- Zila Parishad is at the apex, being the third tier of the Panchayati Raj System. It is situated at the district level.
- Zila Parishad also has a term of 5 years. Some of its members are directly elected and the Chairpersons of the Panchayat Samitis are ex-officio members. MPs and MLAs belonging to the district are also the members of Zila Parishad.
- Chairperson of the Zila Parishad is elected from the directly elected members.

- Not less than 1/3rd of the offices and seats are reserved for the women members.
- Seats are also reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Important Terms in 5th September -2020 News

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Indian Coast Guard:

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law
- It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.
- The Indian Coast Guard was formally established on 18 August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India as an independent Armed force of India.
- It is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India and is coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence

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Second world war:

- World War II, also called Second World War, was a conflict that involved virtually every part of the world during the years 1939–45.
- The principal belligerents were the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, and Japan—and the Allies—France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China.
- It was the biggest conflict in history that had lasted almost six years.

National Food Security Act,2013:

- The objective is to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.
- The Act provides for coverage of up-to 75% of the rural population and up-to 50% of the urban population for receiving subsidized food-grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.

Oil Spills:

- An oil spill refers to any uncontrolled release of crude oil, gasoline, fuels, or other oil by-products into the environment. Oil spills can pollute land, air, or water, though it is mostly used for oceanic oil spills.
- They have become a major environmental problem, chiefly as a result of intensified petroleum exploration and production on continental shelves and the transport of large amounts of oils in vessels.

Important Terms in 4th September -2020 News

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QUAD:

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn’t move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- In December 2012, Shinzo Abe again floated the concept of Asia’s “Democratic Security Diamond” involving Australia, India, Japan and the US to safeguard the maritime commons from the Indian Ocean to the western Pacific.
- In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending “Quad” Coalition to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence

NPA:

- The assets of the banks which don’t perform (that is – don’t bring any return) are called Non Performing Assets (NPA) or bad loans. Bank’s assets are the loans and advances given to customers. If customers don’t pay either interest or part of principal or both, the loan turns into bad loan.
- According to RBI, terms loans on which interest or installment of principal remain overdue for a period of more than 90 days from the end of a particular quarter is called a Non-performing Asset.

Narcotics Control Bureau:

- It was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.

Pulikkali:

- Pulikali (Tiger Dance) is one among the folk art forms of Kerala. The term Pulikkali literally means ‘play of the tigers’. Pulikali is also known as
- he art is performed on the fourth day of Onam. Performers are painted like tigers with stripes of yellow, red and black and dance to the rhythm of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda and wear leopard or tiger masks.

- The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.
- Pulikkali groups are called as 'sangams'.

National Highways Authority of India :

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was set up under NHAI Act, 1988. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
 - It has been entrusted with the National Highways Development Project, along with other minor projects for development, maintenance and management.
- National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is a project to upgrade, rehabilitate and widen major highways in India to a higher standard. The project was started in 1998.
- NHAI maintains the National Highways network to global standards and cost effective manner and promotes economic well being and quality of life of the people.

Important Terms in 3rd September -2020 News

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Index of Industrial Production:

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act of 2005:

- The Mitakshara school of Hindu law, a personal law, codified as the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 used to govern the succession and inheritance of property in Hindus.
- Under this law, only male were recognised as the legal heirs or coparceners and women were not a coparcener in the family and thus were denied the right to inherit their father's property.
- As a result of this discrimination, Section 6 of the Act was amended in the year 2005 to make a daughter of a coparcener also a coparcener by birth in her own right in the same manner as the son.
- The law also gave the daughter the same rights and liabilities in the coparcenary property as she would have had if she had been a son.

Gross Value Added:

- In 2015, India opted to make major changes to its compilation of national accounts and decided to bring the whole process into conformity with the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) of 2008.
- As per the SNA, GVA is defined as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption and is a measure of the contribution to growth made by an individual producer, industry or sector.
-Gross Value Added = GDP + subsidies on products – taxes on products

Attorney General:

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.

Appointment and Eligibility:

- AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.
- S/he must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, i.e. s/he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some
- high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- Term of the Office: Not fixed by the Constitution.
- **Removal:** Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).

United Nations Security Council (UNSC):

- It is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council

resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

- Members: The Security Council consists of fifteen members. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.
- The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

Important Terms in 2nd September -2020 News

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Environmental Performance Index:

- EPI is a biennial index prepared by Yale University and Columbia University in collaboration with the World Economic Forum.
- It offers a scorecard that highlights leaders and laggards in environmental performance and provides practical guidance for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future.
- This index was first published in 2002 designed to supplement the environmental targets set forth in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Crony capitalism:

- Crony capitalism means a capitalist society in which the success of the business depends on the nexus between a political class and business class rather a free market and the rule of law.
- Crony Capitalism Index calculates how much economic activity occurs in industries prone to cronyism.

Force Majeure:

- The term 'force majeure' has been defined in Black's Law Dictionary, as 'an event or effect that can be neither anticipated nor controlled.'
- It is a contractual provision allocating the risk of loss if performance becomes impossible or impracticable, especially as a result of an event that the parties could not have anticipated or controlled.'
- While force majeure has neither been defined nor specifically dealt with, in Indian statutes, some reference can be found in Section 32 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (the "Contract Act")

envisages that if a contract is contingent on the happening of an event which event becomes impossible, then the contract becomes void.

Renati Cholas:

- The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present-day Kadapa district.
- They were originally independent, later forced to the suzerainty of the Eastern Chalukyas.
- They had the unique honour of using the Telugu language in their inscriptions belonging to the 6th and 8th centuries.
- The earliest of this family was Nandivarman (500 AD) who claimed descent from the family of Karikala and the Kasyapa gotra.

Open market operations:

- Open market operations (OMO) refers to a central bank buying or selling short-term Treasuries and other securities in the open market in order to influence the money supply, thus influencing short term interest rates.
- Buying securities adds money to the system, making loans easier to obtain and interest rates decline.
- Selling securities from the central bank's balance sheet removes money from the system, making loans more expensive and increasing rates.

Important Terms in 1st September -2020 News

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Important Terms in 30th September -2020 News

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Shaheen Bagh case:

- The Shaheen Bagh protest was a sit-in peaceful protest, led by women, that began in response to the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in both houses of Parliament on 11 December 2019 and the ensuing police intervention against students at Jamia Millia Islamia who were opposing the Amendment.
- Protesters agitated not only against the citizenship issues of the CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and National Population Register (NPR), but also against police brutality, unemployment, poverty and for women's safety.
- Mainly consisting of Muslim women, the protesters at Shaheen Bagh, since 14 December 2019.
- The protests ended on 24 March 2020 as Delhi Police vacated the site due to coronavirus pandemic.

Investor → State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) tribunal:

- ISDS or investment court system (ICS) is a system through which individual companies can sue countries for alleged discriminatory practices.
- If an investor from one country (the "home state") invests in another country (the "host state"), both of which have agreed to ISDS, and the host state violates the rights granted to the investor under public international law, then that investor may bring the matter before an arbitral tribunal.
- Foreign investors alone (including their subsidiaries and shareholders) are able to initiate claims against the government; the government cannot initiate an ISDS proceeding.
- The decision-makers in these ISDS proceedings are private arbitrators appointed on a case by-case basis to decide the investors' claims against the host government.

ESG Fund:

- ESG is a combination of three words i.e. environment, social and governance.
- It is a kind of mutual fund. Its investing is used synonymously with sustainable investing or socially responsible investing.
- Typically, a mutual fund looks for a good stock of a company that has potential earnings, management quality, cash flows, the business it operates in, competition etc.
- However, while selecting a stock for investment, the ESG fund shortlists companies that score high on environment, social responsibility and corporate governance, and then looks into financial factors.

- Therefore, the key difference between the ESG funds and other funds is 'conscience' i.e the ESG fund focuses on companies with environment-friendly practices, ethical business practices and an employee-friendly record.
- The fund is regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The first ESG mutual fund was launched by the State Bank of India – SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund.

Article 254(2):

- It enables a State government to pass a law, on any subject in the Concurrent List, that may contradict a Central law, provided it gets the President's assent.

-In 2014, the Rajasthan government took this Article 254 (2) route to make changes to the central labour laws — the Factories Act, the Industrial Disputes act, and the Contract Labour Act — which subsequently got the President's assent.

- However, the Parliament is not barred from enacting at any time any law with respect to the same matter including a law adding to, amending, varying or repealing the law so made by the Legislature of the State.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation:

- It is a government organisation that manages the provident fund and pension accounts for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.
- It implements the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

-The Act provides for the institution of provident funds for employees in factories and other establishments.

- It is administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

UMANG App:

- It is a unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.
- It is developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) to drive mobile governance under Digital India.
- It provides a single platform to citizens for accessing pan India e-Government services ranging from central to local government bodies and other citizen-centric services.
- Services Provided: Filing income tax, EPFO services, Aadhar, Pension, ePathshala, e- Land Records, Crop Insurance etc.

Long-billed vulture:

- Long-billed vulture, commonly known as the Indian vulture.
- Scientific Name: *Gyps indicus*
- IUCN Red List Status: Critically Endangered
- CITES Status: Appendix II
- Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 Status: Schedule I



Important Terms in 29th September -2020 News

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NCDC:

- It is a statutory corporation set up under the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962.
- The objectives of NCDC are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles.
- NCDC is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has started Mission Sahakar 22, which aims to double farmers' income by 2022.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):

- It is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.

SAATHI:

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism with Quality Council of India to assist the hospitality industry to continue to operate safely and thereby instill confidence among the Staff, employees and the guests about the safety of the hotel/unit.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize:

- The award is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), the late Dr (Sir) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar and is known as the 'Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology'.
- The Prize is given each year for outstanding contributions to science and technology.
- Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of 45 years. Overseas citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) working in India are also eligible.
- The Prize is awarded on the basis of contributions made through work done primarily in India during the five years preceding the year of the Prize.

Nagorno-Karabakh:

- Nagorno-Karabakh is a breakaway region that is inside Azerbaijan but is run by ethnic Armenians.
- It broke away from Azerbaijan in a conflict that broke out as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.
- Though a ceasefire was agreed in 1994, Azerbaijan and Armenia frequently accuse each other of attacks around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the separate Azeri-Armenian frontier.

Important Terms in 28th September -2020 News

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Global climate risk index 2020:

- India was ranked 5th in Global Climate Risk Index.
- The report is released by the Environment think tank, German watch

6th schedule:

- The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, according to Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).
- ADCs are bodies representing a district to which the Constitution has given varying degrees of autonomy within the state legislature.
- The governors of these states are empowered to reorganize boundaries of the tribal areas.

JIMEX:

- JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation.
- It is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)

GeM Samvaad:

- Public procurement platform 'Government e-Marketplace (GeM)' has launched a national outreach program called GeM Samvaad to attract sellers to sell products online to government buyers.
- GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments / Organizations /Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- It was launched in 2016 to bring transparency and efficiency in the government buying process.
- It operates under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana:

- PMSSY was announced in 2003 with objectives of correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- The PMSSY is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It has two components: 1. Setting up new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) 2.Up gradation of government medical colleges in various states.
- The project cost for up gradation of each medical college institution is shared by the Centre and the state.

Important Terms in 26th September -2020 News

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Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India or the IRDAI:

- The IRDAI is the apex body responsible for regulating and developing the insurance industry in India.
- It is an autonomous body.
- It was established by an act of Parliament known as the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. Hence, it is a statutory body.
- The IRDAI is headquartered in Hyderabad in Telangana. Prior to 2001, it was headquartered in New Delhi.

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.

- It is established by the AIIB Articles of Agreement (entered into force Dec. 25, 2015) which is a multilateral treaty. The Parties (57 founding members) to agreement comprise the Membership of the Bank.
- It is headquartered in Beijing and began its operations in January 2016.
- The members to Bank have now grown to 97 approved members worldwide.
- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond, it will better connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.
- To foster sustainable economic development, create wealth and improve infrastructure connectivity in Asia by investing in infrastructure and other productive sectors.
- To promote regional cooperation and partnership in addressing development challenges by working in close collaboration with other multilateral and bilateral development institutions.
- To promote investment in the public and private capital for development purposes, in particular for development of infrastructure and other productive sectors.

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD):

- It is the grouping of four democracies –India, Australia, the US, and Japan.
- All four nations find a common ground of being democratic nations and also support the common interest of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- The Quad is billed as four democracies with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

- The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- Finally, on November 12, 2017, India, Australia, the US and Japan, came together and formed this "quadrilateral" coalition.

Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

- Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919 also called Montford Reforms. It is existing in the Indian Constitution since then.
- It is one of the parliamentary committees that examine the annual audit reports of CAG which the President lays before the Parliament of India. Those three reports submitted by CAG are:
 1. Audit report on appropriation accounts
 2. Audit report on finance accounts
 3. Audit report on public undertakings
- The Public Accounts Committee examines public expenditure.
- That public expenditure is not only examined from a legal and formal point of view to discover technical irregularities but also from the point of view of the economy, prudence, wisdom, and propriety.
- The sole purpose to do this is to bring out cases of waste, loss, corruption, extravagance, inefficiency, and nugatory expenses.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:

- Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Act ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.
- Under the Act, organisations require to register themselves every five years.

Narcotics Control Bureau:

- It was constituted by the Government of India in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on Article 47 of the Indian Constitution which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.

Important Terms in 25th September -2020 News

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CICA:

- The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.
- It is a forum based on the recognition that there is close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.
- The key idea of the Conference is based on the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states.

G4:

- G-4 is a group of four countries i.e. Brazil, Germany, India and Japan which support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- The G-4 countries have decided to prepare for a fresh push for reforms at the UNGA in 2020 when the UN celebrates its 75th anniversary.

CAG:

- CAG is an independent authority under the Constitution of India.
- He is the head of the Indian audit & account department and chief Guardian of Public purse.
- Article 148 broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
- Article 149 deals with Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
- Article 150 says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
- Third Schedule – Section IV of the Third Schedule of the Constitution of India prescribes the form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India at the time of assumption of office.

Lok Adalat:

- The concept of Lok Adalat (People's Court) is an innovative Indian contribution to the world jurisprudence.
- Lok Adalat (People's Court) is one of the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, where the cases or disputes which are pending in a court or which are at pre-litigation stage are settled in an amicable manner.
- It is a statutory body under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. This system is based on Gandhian principles.
- Lok Adalats serve very crucial functions in India due to many factors like pending cases, illiteracy, poverty, high vacancy in courts etc.

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- Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.

Important Terms in 23rd September -2020 News

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Honour killing:-

- Honour killing is defined as the killing of a person who is perceived to have brought dishonour to their family.
- Honour killings have been reported in northern regions of India such Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as a result of people marrying without their family's acceptance and sometimes for marrying outside their caste or religion.
- Honour killings are also widespread in South India and the western India of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Trade unions:-

- A trade union can be defined as an organised association of workers in a trade or profession, formed to further their rights and interests.
- In India, Trade Unions are registered under the Trade Union Act (1926).
- Trade unions are interested in the economic and social welfare of the workers. It may also have political interests in the larger society.
- Though the origin of labour movements was traced to the 1860s, first labour agitation in the history of India occurred in Bombay (1875).
 - It was organised under the leadership of S.S Bengalee.
 - It concentrated on the plight of workers, especially women and children.
 - This led to the appointment of the first Factory commission, 1875. Consequently, the first

factories act was passed in 1881.

-In 1890, M.N Lokhande established Bombay Mill Hands Association. This was the first organised labour union in India.

SAARC:-

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
- The idea of regional cooperation in South Asia was first raised in November 1980.
- After consultations with the foreign secretaries of the seven founding countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- Afghanistan became the newest member of SAARC at the 13th annual summit in 2005.
- The Headquarters and Secretariat of the Association are at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA):-

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- In 1991, the P.V Narashima Rao government proposed a pilot scheme for generating employment in rural areas with the following goals:

-Employment Generation for agricultural labour during the lean season.

-Infrastructure Development

-Enhanced Food Security

- his scheme was called the Employment Assurance Scheme which later evolved into the MGNREGA after the merger with the Food for Work Programme in the early 2000s.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- The act mandates Gram sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION (PREVENTION AND CONTROL) AUTHORITY (EPCA):-

- EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- It was notified in 1998 by the Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- Its mandate is to protect and improve the quality of the environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in the NCR.

- It is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR that defines specific measures to tackle different levels of air pollution throughout the year.
- It has 14 members including environment secretary of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council, transport commissioner of the NCT, the commissioners of various municipal corporations of Delhi and professors at IIT Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- The EPCA has been empowered to take Suo motu action as well as on the basis of complaints made by any individual, representative body or organisation functioning in the environmental issues sector.

Stubble burning:-

- Stubble burning is the act of setting fire to crop residue to remove them from the field to sow the next crop.
- It is the cheapest and fastest way to get rid of the stubble.
- If Stubble is left in the field, pests like termites may attack the upcoming crop.
- The due to lack of economic conditions of farmer don't allow them to use expensive mechanised methods to remove stubble.

Important Terms in 22nd September -2020 News

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Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices:

- The CACP works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, formed in 1965. It is a statutory body.
- Currently, the Commission comprises a Chairman, Member Secretary, one Member (Official) and two Members (Non-Official).
-The non-official members are representatives of the farming community and usually have an active association with the farming community.
- It is mandated to recommend Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production.
- CACP submits separate reports recommending prices for Kharif and Rabi seasons.

Mission Purvodaya:

- Purvodaya in the steel sector is aimed at driving accelerated development of Eastern India through the establishment of an integrated steel hub.
- It is expected that out of the 300 MT capacity by 2030-31, over 200 MT can come from this region alone, driven by Industry 4.0.
- The Integrated Steel Hub, encompassing Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh, would serve as a torchbearer for socio-economic growth of Eastern India.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group:

- The classification among tribes was adopted by the Government of India (GoI) after the Dhebar Commission (1960-1961) stated that within the Scheduled Tribes there existed an inequality in the rate of development.
- During the 4th Five Year Plan (1969-74), a sub-category was created within Scheduled Tribes to identify groups at a lower level of development. This sub-category was called "Primitive tribal group", which is now PVTG.

Poverty and Human Development Monitoring Agency:

- PHDMA has been created as an agency registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It is under the administrative control of the Planning & Convergence Department, Odisha Government.

Neutrinos:

- Neutrinos are subatomic fundamental particles, with no charge and little or zero mass that interacts only via the weak subatomic force and gravity.
- Neutrinos are created by various radioactive decays; during a supernova, by cosmic rays striking atoms etc.
- They are considered mass less according to the Standard Model of Particle Physics.
- However recent experiments indicate that these charge-neutral fundamental particles have finite but small mass which is unknown. Also, different species (or flavours) of neutrinos seem to mix and oscillate into one another as they traverse through the cosmos

Komodo dragons:

- Komodo dragons are the largest and heaviest lizards on Earth. They have long, flat heads with rounded snouts, scaly skin, bowed legs, and huge, muscular tails.

- Komodo dragons can eat almost anything, including invertebrates, birds, and mammals like deer, pigs, and even large water buffalo.
- Komodo dragons have thrived in the harsh climate of Indonesia's Lesser Sunda Islands for millions of years. They prefer the islands' tropical forests but can be found across the islands.
- Komodo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is situated in the Island of Komodo (eastern Indonesia) and is the only habitat for this lizard species.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable.
- CITES: Appendix I. (The commercial trading of live specimens or any parts, dead or alive of Komodo is prohibited.)
- In August 2019, the Indonesian government ordered the relocation of the residents of the Island of Komodo in a bid to conserve Komodo dragons and the Komodo National Park.

Medicanes:

- Medicanes are tropical-like cyclones formed over the Mediterranean Sea.
- With the surrounding dry climate and the relatively shallow waters of the sea, the occurrence of tropical-like cyclones is infrequent.
- They typically form in the fall or winter months and occur once or twice a year

National Neutrino Collaboration group (NNCG):

- It includes more than 50 scientists from about 15 Institutes and Universities in India and is tasked with detailing various aspects related to INO activity and come up with a proposal for an underground neutrino laboratory.
- Funded by : Dept. of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Dept. of Science and Technology (DST).
- Objectives: INO will observe neutrinos and antineutrinos produced in the atmosphere of the Earth. Over the years this underground facility is expected to develop into a full-fledged underground science laboratory for other studies in physics, biology, geology, hydrology etc.

Bonda tribe:

- The Bonda (also known as the Bondo, Bondo Poraja, Bhonda, or Remo) are a Munda ethnic group who live in the isolated hill regions of the Malkangiri district of southwestern Odisha, India, near the junction of the three states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh.
- In Bonda society, the women enjoy a privileged position.
- The unfree labour or Goti system in India is known as Gufam by the Bonda people. According to Pati, a male bonded labour is called Gufam-Rem whereas a female laborer is a Gufam-Boy.
- Bonda people are often led to bonded labour through marriage, also known as diosing.

Didayi Tribe:

- The Didayi belongs to the Proto-Australoid racial stock.
- They speak a language which has been included under Austroasiatic language family.
- The Didayi as a Scheduled Tribe group is confined to Orissa State only and found nowhere else in our country.
- They may be labeled as an humble people of the Eastern Ghats

Important Terms in 21st September -2020 News

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News Broadcasters Association:

- The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) represents the private television news & current affairs broadcasters. It is the collective voice of the news & current affairs broadcasters in India. It is an organization funded entirely by its members.
- The NBA presents a unified and credible voice before the Government, on matters that affect the growing industry.

FCRA:

- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India.
- FCRA Act was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.
- The government has used the act over the years to freeze bank accounts of certain NGOs who it found were affecting India's national interest for wrong purposes.
- As per the FCRA Act 2010, all NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.

MSP:

- The MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers.
- Reason behind the idea of MSP is to counter price volatility of agricultural commodities due to the factors like variation in their supply, lack of market integration and information asymmetry.

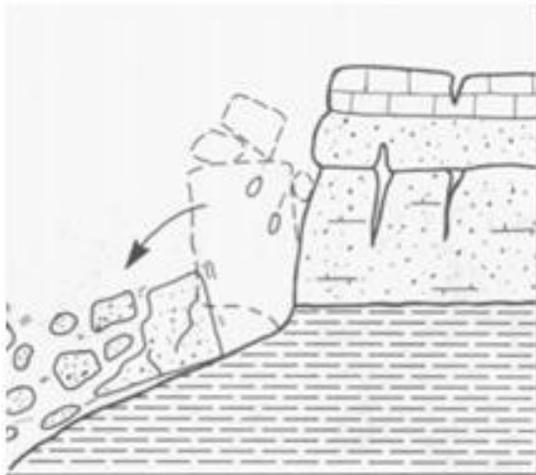
- The MSP is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General:

- Solicitor General is the second highest law officer in the country.
- He is subordinate to the Attorney General of India, the highest law officer and works under him.
- He also advises the government in legal matters.
- Solicitor general is appointed for period of three years by Appointment Committee of Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister.
- Office and duties of Attorney General is created by Constitution under Article 76.
- While, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' office and duties are governed by Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987 and not by Constitution (thus they are statutory posts and not constitutional).
- Moreover, attorney generals has right to participate in the proceedings of Parliament, but cannot vote.
- Whereas, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' do not have these rights wrt to participation in parliament.

Landslides:

- A landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.
- Landslides are a type of "mass wasting (a geomorphic process)," which denotes any down-slope movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.



- Several things can trigger landslides including the slow weathering of rocks as well as soil erosion, earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- Continent-wise, Asia suffers the maximum damages / losses due to landslides. Among the Asian countries, South Asian nations are the worst sufferers and India is one of the worst affected by landslides.

- As landslides are frequent and widespread, the annual cumulative losses worldwide amount to tens of billions of USD in terms of lost property, environmental damage, repair works, and the maintenance of defence measures.
- As per Geological Survey of India, the economic loss due to landslides may reach between 1-2% of the gross national product in many developing countries.

World Bank:

- Head Quarters:- Washington
- Set up in 1944 with a charter to drive post-World War II reconstruction
- Officially known as IBRD (International bank for reconstruction and Development)
- Provide long term soft loans to rebuild the third world (Soft loans ? interest rate is very low)
- The official goal or mission of the World Bank is reduction of poverty
- Aim: – Promotion of foreign investment and international trade + Facilitation of capital investment.
- Voting power is based on economic size and International Development Association contributions.
- World Bank Group Comprises of Five organizations viz.
 - The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
 - The International Development Association (IDA)
 - International Finance Corporation (IFC)
 - Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
 - International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)

No confidence motion:

- A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations.
- No prior reason needs to be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
- The Constitution of India does not mention about either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion. Although, Article 75 does specify that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
A motion of No Confidence can be admitted when a minimum of 50 members, support the motion in the house.

ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research):

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.
- It was established in 1911 as Indian Research Fund Association (IRFA) making it one of oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world.

- The ICMR functions under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ICMR's research priorities coincide with national health priorities such as control and management of communicable diseases, fertility control, maternal and child health, control of nutritional disorders, research on major non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and mental health research and drug research (including traditional remedies) and developing alternative strategies for health care delivery.
- **Its mandate is to :-**
 - conduct
 - coordinate and
 - implement
- It is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Important Terms in 19th September -2020 News

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APMC:

- Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) is the marketing boards established by the state governments in order to eliminate the exploitation incidences of the farmers by the intermediaries, where they are forced to sell their produce at extremely low prices.
- Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a system operating under the State Government since agricultural marketing is a State subject.
- The APMC has Yards/Mandis in the market area that regulates the notified agricultural produce and livestock.

Peaceful Nuclear Explosions:

- Peaceful nuclear explosions (PNEs) are nuclear explosions conducted for non-military purposes.
- The US proposed to prohibit PNE rights and instead offered to provide the technology on a commercial basis.
- The Indian representatives consistently termed the offer as 'atomic apartheid' and 'commercial super-monopoly,' and insisted that PNE rights need to be integral to all peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- India conducted its first PNE in 1974 in opposition to this discriminatory principle.

QUAD:

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- The four countries already did exercise together along with Singapore as part of Exercise MALABAR – which initially began as a bilateral naval exercise between the United States and India – back in 2007. Then Japan participated and was made a permanent member of the Malabar exercises

UPSC:

- The Union Public Service Commission of India was constituted by the British Government during the British rule.
- The Lee Commission, in 1924 had suggested in its report for the creation of an unprejudiced and independent Public Service Commission.
- On the basis of such suggestions, the Union Public Service Commission was constituted in 1926.
- According to Article 315 of the Indian constitution, there shall be a permanent UPSC (Union Public Service Commission).
- This body will conduct exam to appoint candidates to different posts of Indian Civil Services under the government of India.
- Article 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of UPSC members, functions and powers of UPSC.

National Green Tribunal:

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand, and the first developing country to do so.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.

NATIONAL BAMBOO MISSION:

- The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector by adopting area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.
- The Mission envisages promoting holistic growth of bamboo sector by adopting area-based, regionally differentiated strategy and to increase the area under bamboo cultivation and marketing.

Funding Pattern:

- 60:40 between Centre and State Govt. for all States (excepting NE & Hilly states),
- 90:10 for the NE & Hilly States, and
- 100% for Union Territories/R&D Institutes/Bamboo Technology Support Groups (BTSGs) and National Level Agencies.

ASEAN:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- It was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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Djibouti Code of Conduct:

- It is also known as the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

-It was adopted on 29th January 2009.

-It was established under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

- Objective: Under the code, the signatories agreed to co-operate to the fullest possible extent in the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships.
- Signatories: It has been signed by 20 countries including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates.

-The member states are located in areas adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Africa and include island nations in the Indian Ocean.

- Observers: India, Japan, Norway, the UK and the USA.

Paris Agreement:

- It was adopted by 195 parties at the UN climate conference "COP 21" held in Paris in 2015 with an aim to reduce the hazardous greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Objective: To prevent an increase in global average temperature and keep it well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- It emphasised that global GHG emissions must fall 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.
- 19 members of the G20, except the USA which has pulled out of it, have voiced their commitment to the full implementation of the deal.

G20:

- It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- Headquarters: It operates as a forum and not as an organisation. Therefore, it does not have any permanent secretariat or management and administrative structure.
- Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the USA, and the EU.

Adenovirus Vector Vaccine:

- In this vaccine, adenovirus is used as a tool to deliver genes or vaccine antigens to the target host tissue.
- Adenoviruses (ADVs) are DNA viruses ranging from 70-90 nanometre in size, which induce many illnesses in humans like cold, respiratory infection etc.
- Adenoviruses are preferred for vaccines because their DNA is double stranded which makes them genetically more stable and the chances of them changing after injection are lower.
- However, there are drawbacks of adenovirus vector vaccines like pre-existing immunity in humans and inflammatory responses which may make vaccines less effective.

Kalinga Cricket Frog:

- Scientific Name: *Fejervarya kalinga*.
- It is a recently identified species which was documented in 2018.
- It was thought to be endemic only to the higher-elevation hill ranges of the Eastern Ghats in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- Cricket frogs are indicators of a healthy ecosystem and live in wide habitat ranges in agricultural fields, streams, swamps and wetlands.

Securities Transaction Tax:

- It is a tax levied at the time of purchase and sale of securities listed on stock exchanges in India.
- Both purchaser and seller both need to pay 0.1% of share value as STT.

World Wildlife Fund for Nature:

- It is the world's leading conservation organization and works in more than 100 countries.
- It was established in 1961 and is headquartered at Gland, Switzerland.
- Its mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth.
- WWF collaborates at every level with people around the world to develop and deliver innovative solutions that protect communities, wildlife, and the places in which they live.

Phosphine:

- Phosphine is a phosphorus atom with three hydrogen atoms attached (PH₃) – is highly toxic to people.
- On rocky planets such as Venus and Earth, phosphine can only be made by life—whether human or microbe.
- Phosphine is made naturally by some species of anaerobic bacteria—organisms that live in the oxygen-starved environments of landfills, marshlands, and even animal guts.
-To produce phosphine, Earth bacteria take up phosphate from minerals or biological material and add hydrogen.
- Phosphine also arises non-biologically in certain industrial settings.

Western and Eastern Ghats:

- The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats are the two different biogeographic zones, with unique histories.
- While the Western Ghats are considered as a biodiversity hotspot, that is not the case with the Eastern Ghats.
- Geologically, the Western Ghats are ancient, having Gondwanaland relict forests in the south, while the formation of the Eastern Ghats is recent.
- Both landscapes have unique ecosystems, with special microclimates and microhabitats that support a great number of diversities including amphibians.

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Drugs Controller General of India:

- DCGI under gamut of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is responsible for approval of licenses of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, vaccines, IV fluids and sera in India.
- DCGI lays down standards and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India.
- It acts as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding quality of drugs.
- It prepares and maintains national reference standard.
- It brings about uniformity in enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Minimum Support Price:

- The MSP is the rate at which the government buys grains from farmers.
- Reason behind the idea of MSP is to counter price volatility of agricultural commodities due to the factors like variation in their supply, lack of market integration and information asymmetry.

Fixation of MSP

- The MSP is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- Factors taken into consideration for fixing MSP include:
 - Demand and supply;
 - Cost of production (A2 + FL method)

- Price trends in the market, both domestic and international;
- inter-crop price parity;
- Terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture;
- A minimum of 50% as the margin over cost of production; and
- Likely implications of MSP on consumers of that product.

Taxation:

- Taxation is the means by which a government or the taxing authority imposes or levies a tax on its citizens and business entities. From income tax to goods and services tax (GST), taxation applies to all levels.
- The Central and State government plays a significant role in determining the taxes in India.
- To streamline the process of taxation and ensure transparency in the country, the state and central governments have undertaken various policy reforms over the last few years.
- One such change was the Goods and Services Tax (GST) which eased the tax regime on the sale and deliverance of goods and services in the country.

RT-PCR Test:

- Under this, copies of a segment of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) are created using an enzyme called Polymerase.
- The 'chain reaction' signifies how the DNA fragments are copied, exponentially — one is copied into two, the two are copied into four, and so on.
- A fluorescent DNA binding dye called the "probe" is added to DNA, which shows the presence of the virus on a fluorometer.
 - However, coronavirus is made of RNA (ribonucleic acid).
 - Therefore to detect coronavirus, RNA is converted into DNA using a technique called reverse transcription. A 'reverse transcriptase' enzyme converts the RNA into DNA.
 - Copies of the DNA are then made and amplified.

Bru tribe:

- Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.
- In 1997, following ethnic clashes, nearly 37,000 Brus fled Mamit, Kolasib and Lunglei districts of Mizoram and were accommodated in relief camps in Tripura.

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs.
- In this context, in 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes.
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics – they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.

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Parliamentary Standing Committees:

- A good deal of Parliamentary business is transacted in the committees. Both Houses of Parliament have a similar committee structure, with a few exceptions.
- Their appointment, terms of office, functions and procedure of conducting business are also more or less similar and are regulated as per rules made by the two Houses under Article 118(1) of the Constitution.
- Broadly, Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds – Standing Committees and ad hoc Committees.
- The former are elected or appointed every year or periodically and their work goes on, more or less, on a continuous basis.
- The latter are appointed on an ad hoc basis as the need arises and they cease to exist as soon as they complete the task assigned to them

FDI:

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a company or an individual in one country into business interests located in another country.

- FDI is an important driver of economic growth.
- FDI is when a foreign entity acquires ownership or controlling stake in the shares of a company in one country, or establishes businesses there.
- It is different from foreign portfolio investment where the foreign entity merely buys equity shares of a company.

Monetary Policy Committee:

- It was created in 2016.
- It was created to bring transparency and accountability in deciding monetary policy.
- MPC determines the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- Committee comprises of six members where Governor RBI acts as an ex-officio chairman. Three members are from RBI and three are selected by government.
- Inflation target is to be set once in a five year. It is set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

Kharif crop:

- Sown: June-July
Harvested: September-October
- Rice, maize, jowar, bajra, tur, moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut, soybean etc.
- Assam, West Bengal, coastal regions of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra

WTO:

- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) traces its origins to the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, which laid the foundations for the post-World War II financial system and established two key institutions, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments.
- The WTO has 164 members (including European Union) and 23 observer governments (like Iran, Iraq, Bhutan, Libya etc).

HCI:

- Human Capital Index is Published by: World Bank
- It measures which countries are best in mobilizing the economic and professional potential of its citizens.

Parameter/Dimensions:

- Survival, as measured by under-5 mortality rates;
- Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School which combines information on the quantity and quality of education; and
- Health environment using two proxies of (a) adult survival rates and (b) the rate of stunting for children under age 5.

CBI:

- The CBI was established as the Special Police Establishment in 1941, to investigate cases of corruption in the procurement during the Second World War.
- Later, the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption recommended the establishment of the CBI. The CBI was then formed by a resolution of the Home Affairs Ministry. The Ministry of Personnel, later on, took over the responsibility of the CBI and now it plays the role of an attached office.

MPLADS:

- The MPLAD scheme was formulated in 1993 to enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development works in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt need.
- Initially, the Scheme was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning. In October, 1994, the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- Under this scheme, every MP is entitled to spend Rs 5 crore annually.
- Similar to MPLADS, several states have enacted schemes called Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLALADS) where funds are given to MLAs.

CVC:

- Central Vigilance Commission is the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.
- The CVC was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam. In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC.
- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

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The National Statistical Office:

- NSO is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for providing statistical information services to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.

-The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.

-All business operations in NSO are done in compliance with international standards, procedures and best practices.

Solicitor general:

- Solicitor General is the second highest law officer in the country.
- He is subordinate to the Attorney General of India, the highest law officer and works under him.
- He also advises the government in legal matters.
- Solicitor general is appointed for period of three years by Appointment Committee of Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister.
- While, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' office and duties are governed by Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987 and not by Constitution (thus they are statutory posts and not constitutional).
- Moreover, attorney generals has right to participate in the proceedings of Parliament, but cannot vote.
- Whereas, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' do not have these rights wrt to participation in parliament.

PIL:

- Public interest Litigation (PIL) means litigation filed in a court of law, for the protection of "Public Interest", such as Pollution, Terrorism, Road safety, Constructional hazards etc. Any matter where the interest of public at large is affected can be redressed by filing a Public Interest Litigation in a court of law.
- Public interest litigation is not defined in any statute or in any act. It has been interpreted by judges to consider the intent of public at large.

- Public interest litigation is the power given to the public by courts through judicial activism. However, the person filing the petition must prove to the satisfaction of the court that the petition is being filed for a public interest and not just as a frivolous litigation by a busy body.

Contract farming:

- Contract farming (CF) can be defined as agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products.
- Typically, the farmer agrees to provide agreed quantities of a specific agricultural product. These should meet the quality standards of the purchaser and be supplied at the time determined by the purchaser.
- In turn, the buyer commits to purchase the product and, in some cases, to support production through, for example, the supply of farm inputs, land preparation and the provision of technical advice

GST:

- GST is one indirect tax for the whole nation, which will make India one unified common market.
- It is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the consumer.
- It is a destination based tax i.e will be collected at the state where the goods are sold instead of the manufacturing states.
- In India, GST Bill was first introduced in 2014 as The Constitution (122nd Amendment) Bill.
- This got an approval in 2016 and was renumbered in the statute by Rajya Sabha as The Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016.

Finance commission:

- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.
- Two distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

Economic advisory council:

- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC) is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister.

- The council serves to highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint. It advises the Prime Minister on economic issues like inflation, microfinance, and industrial output.
- For administrative, logistic, planning and budgeting purposes, the NITI Aayog serves as the Nodal Agency for the PMEAC.

Nominal and real GDP:

- Nominal Gross Domestic Product is GDP evaluated at present market prices. GDP is the financial equivalent of all the complete products and services generated within a nation's in a definite time. Nominal varies from real GDP, and it incorporates changes in cost prices due to an increase in the complete cost price.
- Real GDP is an inflation-adjusted calculation that analyzes the rate of all commodities and services manufactured in a country for a fixed year. It is expressed in foundation year prices and is referred to as a fixed cost price. Inflation rectified GDP or fixed dollar GDP. Real GDP is regarded as a reliable indicator of a nation's economic growth as it solely only considers production and free from currency fluctuations.

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MPLADS:

- The MPLAD scheme was formulated in 1993 to enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development works in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt need.
- Durable assets of national priorities and community needs viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc.
- Initially, the Scheme was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning. In October, 1994, the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- Under this scheme, every MP is entitled to spend Rs 5 crore annually.
- Similar to MPLADS, several states have enacted schemes called Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLALADS) where funds are given to MLAs.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016:

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is considered as one of the biggest insolvency reforms in the economic history of India.
- This was enacted for reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets of such persons.
- The Central government introduced the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code(IBC) in 2016 to resolve claims involving insolvent companies.
- This was intended to tackle the bad loan problems that were affecting the banking system.

DGCA:

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation, primarily dealing with safety issues.
- It is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety, and airworthiness standards.
- The DGCA also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Zero Hour:

- Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. It is not mentioned in the parliamentary rules book.
- Under this, MPs can raise matters without any prior notice.
- The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (i.e. regular business of the House) is taken up.

Backwater:

- Backwater is water turned back in its course by an obstruction on opposing current or the flow of tide as in a sewer or river channel or across the river bar.

Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is an animal sanctuary in Wayanad, Kerala, India.
- Flora: Moist deciduous forest consists of maruthi, karimaruthi, rosewood, venteak, vengal, chadachi, mazhukanjiram, bamboos, more, while the semi-evergreen patches comprises veteria indica., lagerstroemia, lanceolata, termianalia paniculata.

- Fauna: Elephants, tigers, panthers, jungle cats, civet cats, monkeys, wild dogs, bisons, deer, bears, monitor lizards and a variety of snakes are seen.
- Avian-Fauna: Peacocks, babblers, cuckoos, owls, woodpeckers, jungle fowls are a few of the various types of birds seen here.
- Wayanad climate is salubrious.

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Index of Industrial Production:

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index that shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a fixed period of time.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012

NIA:

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) was constituted under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, 2008.
- It is a central agency to investigate and prosecute offences:
 - affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States.
 - against atomic and nuclear facilities.
 - smuggling in High-Quality Counterfeit Indian Currency.
- It implements international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations, its agencies and other international organisations.
- It's objective is also to combat terror in India.
- It acts as the Central Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.

DGCA:

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is the regulatory body in the field of Civil Aviation, primarily dealing with safety issues.
- It is responsible for regulation of air transport services to/from/within India and for enforcement of civil air regulations, air safety, and airworthiness standards.
- The DGCA also co-ordinates all regulatory functions with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

INS Khanderi:

- It is a part of six Scorpene submarines manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).
- The other submarines in Scorpene Class are INS Kalvari joined service in December 2017.
- Karanj which is in advanced stage of trials and could be ready for induction by year end.
- The remaining submarines(Vela, Vagir, and Vagsheer) in the series are in advanced stages of manufacturing and trials.
- Indian Navy has two Nuclear-powered submarines Arihant class(India) & Chakra class(Russia); 14 Diesel-electric submarines 4 German HDW(Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft) class, 9 Sindhughosh class(Kilo Class)(Indo-Russian), & 1 Kalvari class(Indo-French).