

# OFFICERS' Pulse

ISSUE NO. 9 | 4TH AUGUST TO 10TH AUGUST, 2019

## Coverage.

The Hindu  
PIB  
Yojana  
Rajya Sabha TV  
All India Radio

# ARTICLE 370

## At a Glance & In Depth.

Polity and Social Issues  
Economy  
International Relations  
Environment  
Science and Tech  
Culture

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

# WEEKLY

THE PULSE OF UPSC AT

YOUR FINGER TIPS.



# News @ a glance

## **POLITY**..... 3

1. Surrogacy regulation bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha ..... 3
2. The Lok Sabha passed Transgender persons (protection of rights), bill 20193
3. Consumer protection bill gets green light in RS..... 3
4. Supreme Court upholds the law empowering homebuyers..... 4

## **ENVIRONMENT** ..... 5

1. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)..... 5
2. India to seek boost to protection status of 5 species at CITES..... 5
3. Mexico's cactus offers alternative to plastics ..... 6

## **ECONOMY** ..... 7

1. Government unveils draft e-com norms ..... 7
2. Yuan, J&K push rupee to highest fall .. 7
3. RBI takes offbeat tack to help reverse growth slowdown ..... 8
4. No action even if CSR norms aren't followed ..... 8
4. Automakers seek easing of tax rates .. 8
5. IIP growth slips to 4-month low ..... 8
6. Public sector banks link lending, repo rates ..... 9

7. CSCs target one lakh EV charging stations .....9

7. Finance Ministry mulls tweaks to FPI surcharge up to Budget .....9

## **International Relations**.....11

1. China threatens to retaliate against Trump tariffs .....11
2. U.K. joins U.S. to ensure safety of vessels in Gulf.....11
3. Food supply is at dire risk: UN .....11

## **SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY** .....13

1. Canine Distemper Virus (CDV).....13
2. Kala Azar .....14
3. Beresheet .....15
4. Prickly pear cactus .....15
5. White gold.....16

## **PIB ANALYSIS** .....17

1. World Biofuel Day .....17
2. Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha .....17
3. Women Transforming India Awards..18
4. National Workshop on Tribal Enterprise with focus on Honey, Bamboo & Lac.....18
5. One Nation One Ration Card .....19
6. Rotavirus vaccine .....20

# News in Depth

## **AIR NEWS ..... 21**

1. India's first 3-D traffic signal ..... 21
2. Bills to curb Mob lynching..... 21
3. Quit India Movement..... 22

## **Hindu Editorial Analysis..... 23**

1. Rajasthan's bill on criminalizing mob lynching (OPED; 5<sup>th</sup> august; The Hindu) 23
2. RBI's Goldilock Cuts..... 23

3. The hard realities of India's fast track courts .....24

4. Jammu & Kashmir special status abrogated .....24

5. FRAGILITY OF INDIA'S FEDERALISM ...27

## **RSTV Big Picture .....30**

1. Strengthening judicial apparatus.....30

2. India-Pak Relations .....31

# News @ a glance

## *POLITY*

### **1. Surrogacy regulation bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha**

- The Lok Sabha in the monsoon session has passed the surrogacy regulation bill, 2019 by voice vote. The bill majorly seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and provide for constituting National Surrogacy Board, and appoint appropriate authorities to regulate the practice.

#### **Background**

- The bill was earlier introduced in 2016. It is formulated to end the exploitation of poor women who are even trafficked for the practice of commercial surrogacy. India has emerged as a hub for surrogacy to the entire world.

#### **Analysis**

- The bill therefore protects the rights of women and children born through surrogacy as often the children are abandoned.
- There are safeguards in the bill to protect the commissioning mother with medical expenses and insurance.
- It regulated altruistic surrogacy.
- There is a clear definition of surrogacy – a practice where a woman gives birth to a child for an eligible couple and agrees to hand over the child to them after birth.

### **2. The Lok Sabha passed Transgender persons (protection of rights), bill 2019**

- The bill has been passed after scrutiny by the standing committee.

- It provides for a mechanism for social, economic and educational empowerment of transgender. (Refer to the details of the bill in PIB section)

### **3. Consumer protection bill gets green light in RS**

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Consumer Protection bill, 2019 which replaces the Consumer protection act, 1986.

#### **What is the bill about?**

- The bill seeks to strengthen the rights of consumers and provides for mechanism for redressal of complaints regarding defects in goods and deficiency in services.
- This bill has been formulated keeping in mind the needs of the latest technological business platforms like e-commerce, tele-marketing etc.

#### **Highlights of the bill –**

- 1.It provides for a definition of consumers
- 2.It is rights based legislation including rights of false information, marketing, quality, redressal etc.
- 3.It provides for a central consumer protection authority for the protection, promotion and enforcement of rights.
- 4.There is a special provision to penalize misleading advertisements which is an advantage and will regulate the industry well.
- 5.It sets up dispute redressal commission at all 3 levels; district, state and national.

- **Source: The Hindu; PIB**

## 4. Supreme Court upholds the law empowering homebuyers

- GS Paper II – Governance

**Cementing a right**

The judgment, empowering home buyers to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against errant builders, is significant as many builders have been under fire for incomplete projects

- A Supreme Court Bench has confirmed the constitutional validity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Act
- The Act gives buyers the status of 'financial creditors' with power to vote in Committee of Creditors (CoC)
- The CoC decides on the future of the builder, including on what to do with his assets
  - Earlier, the assets of the builder were divided among his employees, banks and other operational creditors. The buyers were left in the lurch

- The **Supreme Court** on Friday upheld a central law which empowered harassed home buyers to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against errant real estate builders.

### Analysis

- It is significant as it now brings homebuyers at par with creditors thus enabling to file insolvency suits against builders.
- The CoC, by voting, makes important decisions on the future of the bankrupt builder. These calls include what to do

with his assets and who should finish the pending housing projects.

- The builder's argument that the homebuyers are already protected under RERA act was rejected by the court citing that the IBC and the RERA operate in different spheres and can be used harmoniously for the interest of home buyers. The IBC deals with the replacement of the bankrupt builder from the helm of affairs and hit upon a resolution plan to benefit all the stakeholders. The RERA's purpose is to protect individual home buyers by requiring the:-

1. The promoter to strictly adhere to the purchase deal and complete the project within a stated period.
2. This move would therefore take care of the different stakeholders and would ultimately promote private savings and investment, the pillars of economic growth which has been declining since few years.
3. This would also to an extent be a solution to the rapidly expanding urbanization problem and subsequently urban pollution

### What is RERA?

- It is an act of the parliament which protects the interest of homebuyers. It regulates transactions between buyers and promoters of residential real estate projects. It establishes state level regulatory authorities called Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (RERAs).
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/law-empowering-home-buyers-upheld/article28971126.ece>

# ENVIRONMENT

## 1. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

- The draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is part of a World Bank-funded project.

### Who prepares it?

- The document was prepared by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management, a Ministry-affiliated body.

### What is it about?

- The document lays out guidelines out for coastal States to adopt when they approve and regulate projects in coastal zones.
- The project seeks to assist the Government of India in enhancing coastal resource efficiency and resilience, by building collective capacity (including communities and decentralised governance) for adopting and implementing integrated coastal management approaches.
- The plan describes how “environmental and social aspects” ought to be integrated into the planning, design, implementation of projects.

### What are the proposed activities?

- Mangrove afforestation
- habitat conservation activities (restoration of sea-grass meadows, eco-restoration of sacred groves, development of hatcheries, rearing/rescue centres for turtles and other marine animals)
- creation of infrastructure for tourism,
- restoration and recharge of water bodies,
- beach cleaning and development,
- other small infrastructure facilities.
- demonstration of climate resilient or salinity resistant agriculture,
- water harvesting and recharge/storage,
- creation of infrastructure and facilities to support eco-tourism
- community-based small-scale Mariculture
- seaweed cultivation
- aquaponics and
- Value addition to other livelihood activities.

### Why in news?

- The Environment Ministry has unveiled a draft plan that will dictate how prospective infrastructure projects situated along the coast ought to be assessed before they can apply for clearance.

- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-unveils-plan-for-coastal-zone-management/article28872370.ece>

## 2. India to seek boost to protection status of 5 species at CITES

### Why in news?

- India has submitted proposals regarding changes to the listing of various wildlife species in the CITES secretariat meeting.

### What are the proposed changes?

- The proposal includes changes in the listing of the following species:
  - smooth-coated otter
  - small-clawed otter
  - Indian star tortoise
  - Tokay gecko
  - wedgefish and
  - Indian rosewood.
- For the Indian rosewood, the proposal is to remove the species from CITES Appendix II.
- India is among the parties proposing the re-listing of the star tortoise from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I because of two threats, loss of habitat from agriculture and illegal harvesting for the pet trade.
- For the two otter species and Tokay gecko, India, Nepal and the Philippines have proposed that the listing be moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I for the more endangered species.

### Importance of India's proposals:

- The proposals from India on lesser known species indicate the broadening of the conservation spectrum.

### About CITES:

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild

Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments.

- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union).
- The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force.
- CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily.
- States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties.
- CITES is legally binding on the Parties.
- Headquarters is at Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is administered by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- The species covered by CITES are listed in three appendices on the degree of protection they require.
- Appendix I includes species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.
- Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction, but in which trade must be controlled in order to avoid utilization incompatible with their survival.
- Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. Changes to Appendix III follow a distinct procedure from changes to Appendices I and II, as each Party's is entitled to make unilateral amendments to it.

#### About TRAFFIC:

- TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a joint program of WWF and IUCN – the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indian-seeks-change-of-status-of-several-species-like-star-tortoise-otters-in-cites/article28917079.ece>

### 3. Mexico's cactus offers alternative to plastics

#### Why in news?

- **Mexico's prickly pear cactus, which is emblazoned on the country's flag, could soon play a new and innovative role in the production of biodegradable plastics.**

#### What is it and how is it prepared?

- The pulp of the prickly pear is strained to obtain a juice.
- That substance is then mixed with non-toxic additives and stretched to produce sheets that are coloured with pigments and folded to form different types of packaging.

#### Importance:

- UN member states committed to "significantly reduce" single-use plastics over the next decade, although green groups warned that goal fell short of tackling the Earth's pollution crisis.

#### What are biodegradable plastics?

- Biodegradable plastics are plastics that can be decomposed by the action of living organisms, usually microbes, into water, carbon dioxide, and biomass. The advantages of biodegradable plastics are as follows.
- Biodegradable plastics offer reduces carbon dioxide levels.
- Biodegradable plastics can reduce greenhouse gas emission levels.
- Biodegradable plastics are broken down by naturally-occurring bacteria.
- Biodegradable plastics do not release other dangerous items upon decomposition
- Biodegradable plastics consume less energy during the manufacturing cycle.
- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/mexicos-cactus-offers-alternative-to-plastics/article28871813.ece>

# ECONOMY

## 1. Government unveils draft e-com norms

### What's in the news?

- The Department of Consumer Affairs has released draft guidelines on e-commerce.
- These are issued as guiding principles for e-commerce business for preventing fraud, unfair trade practices and protecting the legitimate rights and interests of consumers.

### Highlights of the draft policy

- E-commerce firms need to ensure that personally identifiable information of customers is protected.
- Every e-commerce entity needs to publish the name and contact details of the grievance officer on their website, who would have to address complaints within one month from the date of receipt.
- It proposed to make it mandatory for firms to display terms of contract with the seller relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty, delivery and mode of payments to enable consumers to make informed decisions.

### Increasing regulations

- Earlier this year, India tightened rules for e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart after complaints from small shops and domestic sellers.
- Groups representing small traders have continued to allege that large platforms prioritize and sell products of a favored few vendors with whom they have commercial linkages.

### New regulations:

- Vendors having any stake owned by an e-commerce company have been barred from selling their products on that e-commerce company's portal.
- E-commerce firms are barred from influencing the price of products sold on its portal by giving incentives to particular vendors.

- <https://www.livemint.com/industry/retail/india-proposes-user-safeguard-rules-for-e-commerce-platforms-1565013792508.html>

## 2. Yuan, J&K push rupee to highest fall

### What is currency depreciation?

- Currency Depreciation refers to a decrease in the value of the domestic currency in terms of a foreign currency.
- It makes the domestic currency less valuable as a result of which more of it is required to buy the foreign currency.

### Why in News?

- The rupee has depreciated to a four-month low of 70.73 a dollar.

### Factors causing the rupee to weaken

- The U.S. threat to reimpose tariffs on China has led to depreciation of all emerging market currencies.
- In addition to this, the government's decision to scrap the special status accorded to J&K caused uncertainty among the investor community.

### Will it help our economy?

- Depreciation of a currency usually helps in improving global export competitiveness of the country.
- Indian Information technology and pharma companies may benefit from a weak rupee since most of their revenues come from foreign countries.

### The flip side

- Depreciation of a currency makes imports costlier. Some imports cannot be cut down such as oil, which can negatively affect India's current account deficit.
- The goods that use imported components such as computers, smartphones and cars also get more expensive. Almost all import-based industry and trade suffers.

- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/rupee-breaches-the-70-mark-how-its-bad-and-how-its-good/articleshow/65396908.cms?from=mdr>

### 3. RBI takes offbeat tack to help reverse growth slowdown

#### About MPC

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the RBI, headed by its Governor, which is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to contain inflation within the specified target level.
- The MPC has six members
  - RBI Governor (Chairperson), RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board and remaining 3 members would represent the Government.
- The MPC takes decisions based on majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have a second or casting vote. The decision of the Committee would be binding on the RBI.

#### What is Repo rate?

- Repo rate is the rate of interest which is applied by RBI to commercial banks when the latter borrows from RBI.
- Repo rate is used to control inflation. In the event of rising inflation, RBI increases repo rate, which will act as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. This ultimately reduces the money supply in the economy and thus helps in arresting inflation.
- Similarly, if it wants to make it cheaper for banks to borrow money, it reduces the repo rate.

#### Why in News?

- The RBI reduced the repo rate by 35 bps (100 bps=1%) to 5.4% in order to revive demand to tackle a deepening economic slowdown.
- The RBI also revised the growth forecast to 6.9% for FY20, from 7% predicted during the previous policy.

### 4. No action even if CSR norms aren't followed

#### About CSR

- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a management concept through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives ("Triple-Bottom-Line- Approach").

- India is the first country in the world to make CSR mandatory, following an amendment to The Company Act, 2013.
- Any company that has a net worth of at least Rs 500 crore, a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or a net profit of Rs 5 crore is obliged to spend 2% of its average profits over the last three years on CSR.
- Businesses can invest their profits in areas such as education, poverty, gender equality, and hunger.

#### Why in News?

- The government has assured that it will not initiate punitive action against companies not following the CSR norms, as mentioned in the recent amendments to the Companies Act.
- The amendments, which were passed in Parliament, mandate jail time of up to three years and fine for those companies and its officials that do not comply with the stated CSR norms.
- [http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php?title=Corporate\\_Social\\_Responsibility\\_\(CSR\)](http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php?title=Corporate_Social_Responsibility_(CSR))

### 4. Automakers seek easing of tax rates

#### What's in the news?

- The automobile industry representatives met Union Finance Minister and sought a uniform GST of 18 per cent for the entire automobile sector in order to stimulate vehicle demand.
- The automotive industry is facing an unprecedented slowdown. Vehicle sales in all segments have continued to fall for the last several months.
- Auto Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) of India had earlier warned that 10 lakh people could lose their jobs in the automobile industry if immediate steps are not taken to stir up vehicle demand in the country.
- Automobiles are expected to cost 10-15% more from 1 April 2020, when Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norms and new safety regulations are expected to kick in.

### 5. IIP growth slips to 4-month low

### About IIP

- Index of Industrial Production details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, electricity and manufacturing.
- It is compiled and published every month by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The current base year is 2011-2012.

### Why in News?

- Growth in the Index of Industrial Production slowed to a four-month low of 1.96% in June.
- The drop is largely due to a slowdown in the manufacturing sector.

## 6. Public sector banks link lending, repo rates

### Background

- The marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) is the benchmark lending rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI.
- The RBI found that banks are reluctant to reduce their lending rates even when the central bank reduce the Repo rate, resulting in poor transmission of interest rates.
- To improve transmission of monetary policy rates, the RBI has been pushing banks to move to an external benchmark (like repo rate) for retail loan pricing from the current practice of using MCLR.

### Why in News?

- Public Sector Banks have started linking their retail loan rates with RBI's repo rate. This means if the RBI changes the repo rate, the retail loan rates will change automatically.
- The move could lead to faster transmission of monetary policy rates.

## 7. CSCs target one lakh EV charging stations

### About CSCs

- Common Service Centres (CSCs) are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education

and agriculture services, apart from host of B2C services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

- It is a pan-India network catering to regional, geographic, linguistic and cultural diversity of the country, thus enabling the Government's mandate of a socially, financially and digitally inclusive society.
- CSCs come under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

### Why in News?

- Common Service Centres plan to open one lakh charging stations for electric vehicles across the country in the next few years, as the country plans to transition to such vehicles from the current combustion engine-powered automobiles.
- <https://www.csc.gov.in/>

## 7. Finance Ministry mulls tweaks to FPI surcharge up to Budget

### What is Foreign Portfolio Investment?

- Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) consists of financial assets such as stocks or bonds held by investors in another country.
- It does not provide the investor with direct ownership of a company's assets, in contrast to Foreign Direct Investors (FDI).
- FPI can enter the stock market easily and also withdraw from it easily. For this reason FPI is also known as **hot money**, as the investors have the liberty to sell it and take it back.

### Background

- The Union Budget 2019 had proposed an increase in the effective tax rate paid by high net-worth individuals (HNIs) by increasing the surcharge from 15% to 25% for incomes between Rs 2 crore and Rs 5 crore and to 37% for incomes above Rs 5 crore.
- The decision drew criticism from Foreign Portfolio Investors and also from economists who predicted that it would result in an outflow of foreign funds from India.

### Why in News?

- In a bid to ease the concerns of foreign portfolio investors over the increased surcharge, the Finance Ministry is considering “**grandfathering**” the income earned by them up to the Budget.
- The proposal on grandfathering would help FPIs avoid paying higher tax for the period between April 1 and July 5.

### What is grandfathering?

- A grandfather clause is an exemption that allows persons or entities to continue with activities or operations that were approved before the implementation of new rules, regulations or laws.
- <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/grandfatherclause.asp>

# International Relations

## 1. China threatens to retaliate against Trump tariffs

### What's in the news?

- U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the country would impose a 10% tariff on \$300 billion of Chinese imports from September 1.
- Reacting to the U.S. decision, China has warned of retaliatory tariffs.
- The U.S. decision is expected to end the ongoing negotiations between the world's biggest economies to solve their trade disputes.

### Background

- The U.S. started to impose tariffs on Chinese products in 2018. It justified duties by accusing China's unfair trade practices like **devaluing** currency (*deliberate downward adjustment of the value of a country's currency relative to another currency*) to push its exports.
- It also accused that the Chinese government deploys unfair ways to force U.S. firms to share technology with Chinese companies to gain access to China's market.
- The retaliatory tariffs by China escalated the tariff war that has slowed global growth and disrupted supply chains.

## 2. U.K. joins U.S. to ensure safety of vessels in Gulf

### What's in the news?

- Britain has joined the U.S. in a maritime security mission to protect merchant vessels travelling through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The decision has come after the seizure of a British-flagged vessel by Iran and raised tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

### Why is Strait of Hormuz important?



- Strait of Hormuz is a choke-point between the Persian Gulf and the open ocean. A third of crude oil exports transported via ships pass through the Strait, which makes it the world's most important oil route.
- If the Strait is closed or if the flow of oil and gas is disrupted, it would have a serious impact on global energy stability and thereby on the world economy.
- <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=39932>

## 3. Food supply is at dire risk: UN

### What's in the news?

- The United Nations has released a new report prepared by more than 100 experts from 52 countries.

### Key Findings

- The world's land and water resources are being exploited at unprecedented rates which, combined with climate change, is putting dire pressure on the ability of humanity to feed itself.
- Half a billion people live in places that are turning into desert, and soil is being lost between 10 and 100 times faster than it is forming.
- Climate change will make these threats even worse, as floods, drought, storms and other types of extreme weather threaten to disrupt, and over time shrink, the global food supply.

- Already, more than 10% of the world's population remains undernourished, and there is a danger that food crisis could develop on several continents at once.
- Food shortages are likely to affect poorer parts of the world far more than richer ones. That could increase the flow of immigration that is already redefining politics in North America, Europe and other parts of the world.

#### **Measures to address the crisis**

- To address the looming food crisis, a major revaluation of land use and agriculture worldwide as well as consumer behaviour is required.
- Proposals include increasing the productivity of land, wasting less food and persuading more people to shift their diets away from cattle and other types of meat.

# SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

## 1. Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)

### What is CDV?

- Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of puppies and dogs.
- The virus can also be found in wildlife such as foxes, wolves, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, mink and ferrets and has been reported in lions, tigers, leopards and other wild cats as well as seals.

### Causative agent

- Canine distemper is caused by a single-stranded RNA virus of the family Paramyxoviridae
- The disease is highly contagious via inhalation.[4] Morbidity and mortality may vary greatly among animal species

### How is canine distemper spread?

- Puppies and dogs most often become infected through airborne exposure (through sneezing or coughing) to the virus from an infected dog or wild animal.
- The virus can also be transmitted by shared food and water bowls and equipment. Infected dogs can shed the virus for months, and mother dogs can pass the virus through the placenta to their puppies.

### How is it transmitted to wild animals?

- Because canine distemper also impacts wildlife populations, contact between wild animals and domestic dogs can facilitate the spread of the virus.

### What are the symptoms of canine distemper?

- Initially, infected animals will develop watery to pus-like discharge from their eyes.
- They then develop fever, nasal discharge, coughing, lethargy, reduced appetite, and vomiting.
- As the virus attacks the nervous system, infected animals develop circling behavior, head tilt, muscle twitches, convulsions with jaw chewing movements and salivation (“chewing gum fits”), seizures, and partial or complete paralysis.

- The virus may also cause the footpads to thicken and harden, leading to its nickname “hard pad disease.”

### How is canine distemper diagnosed and treated?

- Veterinarians diagnose canine distemper through clinical appearance and laboratory testing.
- There is no cure for canine distemper infection.
- Treatment typically consists of supportive care and efforts to prevent secondary infections; control vomiting, diarrhea and neurologic symptoms; and combat dehydration through administration of fluids.
- Animals infected with canine distemper be separated from other animal to minimize the risk of further infection.

### How is canine distemper prevented?

- A series of vaccinations is administered to animals (cubs/puppies) to increase the likelihood of building immunity when the immune system has not yet fully matured.
- Avoid gaps in the immunization schedule and make sure distemper vaccinations are up to date.
- Avoid contact with infected animals and wildlife

### Why in news?

- There is heightened risk of CDV disease transfer from local dogs to the tigers and leopards in Ranthambore National Park.

### Recent study

- A recent study published in Threatened Taxa notes that 86% of the tested dogs around Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan carried CDV antibodies in their bloodstream.
- This means that the dogs are either currently infected or have been infected sometime in their life and have overcome the disease.
- This finding points out that there is an increased risk of disease transfer from the dogs to tigers and leopards that live in the park.

### Previously..

- Last year, over 20 lions from the Gir forest succumbed to the viral infection and now

a guideline has been prepared by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to prevent the spillover of the disease to wild animals.

#### Way forward

- The easy way out is prevention.
- Managing any disease in a wildlife population is extremely difficult.
- The main aim should be to vaccinate the free-ranging and domestic dogs in the area around national parks.
- Many NGOs have started animal birth control programmes around the national parks.

#### Source

- <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Canine-Distemper.aspx>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/tigers-in-india-face-lurking-threat-from-virus/article28808001.ece>

## 2. Kala Azar

### What is it?

- Kala-azar: A chronic and potentially fatal parasitic disease of the viscera (the internal organs, particularly the liver, spleen, bone marrow and lymph nodes) due to infection by the parasite called *Leishmania donovani* (Leishmaniasis).

### What causes Kala azar?

- Kala azar is caused by bites from female phlebotomine sandflies – the vector (or transmitter) of the leishmania parasite.

### How does it infect and spread?

- The sand flies feed on animals and humans for blood, which they need for developing their eggs.
- If blood containing leishmania parasites is drawn from an animal or human, the next person to receive a bite will then become infected and develop leishmaniasis.
- Months after this initial infection the disease can progress into a more severe form, called visceral leishmaniasis or, kala azar.

### Symptoms of kala azar

- Initially, leishmania parasites cause skin sores or ulcers at the site of sand fly bites. If the disease progresses, it attacks the immune system.

- Kala azar presents after two to eight months, with more generalized symptoms including prolonged fever and weakness.

### Diagnosis

- The most effective diagnostic tests for leishmaniasis are invasive and potentially dangerous, where tissue samples are required from the spleen, lymph nodes or bone marrow.
- The most common method of diagnosing kala azar is by dipstick testing.
- Unfortunately, dipstick testing only establishes whether a patient is immune to kala azar – so if the parasite is present it would appear that the patient has the disease.
- Because of this, dipstick testing can't be used to see if the patient is cured, is re-infected or has relapsed.

### Treating kala azar

- Pentavalent antimonials are usually the first line group of drugs, given as a 30-day course of intramuscular injections.
- While antimonials are quite toxic and present a risk to patients receiving treatment, those who are cured for kala azar almost always develop immunity for life.

### Prevention

- A robust surveillance system is an essential component of control or elimination programmes
- 'Passive case detection' is detection triggered by patients seeking care for their illness from clinicians working in static health facilities.
- 'Active case detection' or search means that health staff reach out to the community and systematically screen the population to find cases of leishmaniasis.
- Active case search is an essential component of the visceral leishmaniasis elimination strategy on the Indian subcontinent

### Why in news?

- By encapsulating an antifungal drug in polymer nanofibers, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad have been able to achieve controlled and sustained release of the drug for up to 10 days.
- As a result, no fungal growth was seen up to seven days when the drug

(Amphotericin B) was encapsulated in the polymer.

- The encapsulated drug can also be used for treating kala-azar.

#### Sources

- <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=12022>
- <https://www.msfindia.in/kala-azar-leishmaniasis/>
- <https://www.who.int/leishmaniasis/surveillance/en/>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/a-step-closer-to-oral-administration-of-kala-azar-drug/article28808077.ece>

### 3. Beresheet

#### What is it?

- Beresheet means "in the beginning". It was a private mission to the Moon by Israeli non-profit SpaceIL
- Beresheet successfully reached the Moon, but crash-landed on 11 April 2019

#### What were its accomplishments?

- In addition to providing high-resolution imagery from the surface, Beresheet would have measured the magnetic field at its landing site in Mare Serenitatis, which has magnetic anomalies.

#### Significance of moon's magnetism

- Understanding the Moon's magnetism teaches us about its history.
- While Earth has a global magnetic field caused by the continued churning of liquid metal near the core, the Moon does not.
- But 3.6 billion years ago, the Moon had a magnetic field just as strong as Earth's.

#### Elaboration

- When new-forming rocks solidify from their melted states, they lock in traces of the ambient magnetic field at the time.
- By looking at the ages of different regions and the strength of the magnetic field embedded in rocks, scientists can piece together the Moon's history.

#### Why in news?

- A tiny biological sample from India may have already made it to the Moon ahead of the Chandrayaan 2, through Beresheet lunar lander

#### Lunar Library

- Beresheet had a payload called lunar library.

- The Lunar Library is a 30 million page archive of human history and civilisation, covering all subjects, cultures, nations, languages, genres, and time periods.
- In the event of human extinction, it's meant to be a 'backup' of earth-life.
- It is housed within a 100 gram nanotechnology device that resembles a 120mm DVD.
- However it is actually composed of 25 nickel discs, each only 40 microns thick.
- The Lunar Library contained a small sample from the Bodhi tree in India, along with material on learning Hindi, Urdu and information on music.



#### Sources

1. <http://www.planetary.org/explore/space-topics/space-missions/beresheet.html>
2. <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indian-soil-may-have-reached-moon-on-crashed-israeli-lander/article28917326.ece>

### 4. Prickly pear cactus

#### What is it?

- Prickly pear, also called nopal, any of several species of flat-stemmed spiny cacti of the genus *Opuntia* (family Cactaceae) and their edible fruits.
- Prickly pear cacti are native to the Western Hemisphere.
- Several are cultivated, especially the Indian fig (*O. ficus-indica*), which is an important food for many peoples in tropical and subtropical countries.

#### Why in news?

- A packaging material that is made from the plant has been developed by a Mexican researcher and is offering a

promising solution to one of the world's biggest pollution conundrums.



#### Research elaboration

- The pulp is strained to obtain a juice.
- That substance is then mixed with non-toxic additives and stretched to produce sheets that are colored with pigments and folded to form different types of packaging

#### Focus area

- The focus for the use of this new variety of packaging material is in single-use plastic.

#### Sources

1. <https://www.britannica.com/plant/prickly-pear>
2. <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/mexico-cactus-offers-alternative-to-plastics/article28871813.ece>

## 5. White gold

#### What is it?

- There are many implications to the word white gold, however, in recent context, ice bergs are being referred to as white gold.

#### Why in news?

- There are groups of sailors in Canada, who are taking advantage over the melting arctic ice bergs.
- They are selling the ice bergs to companies for profit

#### Elaboration

- For more than 20 years, local sailors have hauled in the mighty ice giants and then sold the water for a handsome profit to local companies, which then bottle it, mix it into alcoholic products or use it to make cosmetics.
- Business has soared in tandem with the warming of the planet, especially quick in the Arctic, meaning that more and more icebergs find their way south.



#### What is done with the water?

- Dyna Pro, one of the companies which purchases ice berg water, sells the water in glass bottles for Can\$16 (US \$12) each.
- They are targeting a wealthy clientele and have hopes to expand their business abroad.

#### Climate implications

- Experts say the Arctic is warming three times faster than the rest of the planet.
- Commercialising ice berg extraction may prove to be a disastrous move in the long run as it may weaken the debate for climate change and pave way for worsening it.

#### Source

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/canadian-iceberg-hunter-follows-white-gold-in-the-atlantic/article28809557.ece>

# PIB ANALYSIS

## 1. World Biofuel Day

### About World Biofuel Day

- It is observed every year on the 10th of August to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and highlight the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- **Theme** :“Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)”

### Advantages of Biofuel:

- Biofuels have the benefits of reduction of import dependence, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation. Biofuel programme also compliments Government of India’s initiatives for Make in India, Swachh Bharat and increasing farmers income.

### Need of production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)

- In India, the same cooking oil is used for repeated frying which adversely affects the health due to formation of polar compounds during frying. These polar compounds are associated with diseases such as hypertension, atherosclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, liver diseases among others.
- UCO is either not discarded at all or disposed off in an environmentally hazardous manner choking drains and sewerage systems.
- The National Policy on Biofuels, released by the Government of India in 2018, envisages production of biofuel from UCO.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is implementing a strategy to divert UCO from the food value chain and curb current illegal usage.
- The benefits of transformation of UCO will help bring health benefits as there would be no recycling of the UCO, employment generation, infrastructural investment in rural areas & cleaner environment with reduced carbon footprint.
- To facilitate the production of Biodiesel from UCO, the Oil Marketing Companies shall float an Expression of Interest (EOI)

for procurement of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil across 100 cities.

- The purpose of inviting this EOI is to encourage applicants to set up Biodiesel producing plants from Used Cooking Oil (UCO), processing plants and further utilizing the existing potential of UCO based Biodiesel in India.

### Why in News?

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas will organize World Biofuel Day on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

## 2. Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha

### What is the need?

- MHRD has launched the ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ drive to promote water conservation activities for School Students, so that they can become competent, conscientious and committed water citizens of our nation.

### About the drive

- It is a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach.
- This concept of water conservation is essential for students so that they can understand the importance of water and how it is shaping their lives meaningfully, thereby enabling them to participate in water conservation activities in their day to day lives.

### Five Major Objectives:

- To educate students learn about conservation of water
- To sensitize Students about the impact of scarcity of water
- To empower Students to learn to protect the natural sources of water
- To help every Student to save at least one litre of water per day
- To encourage Students towards judicious use and minimum wastage of water at home and school level

### Target

- **Refer the table**

▪ One Student	▪ One Day	▪ Save One Litre Water
▪ One Student	▪ One Year	▪ Save 365 Litres Water
▪ One Student	▪ 10 Years	▪ Save 3650 Litres Water

#### Why in News?

- Union HRD Minister will launch ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ drive to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students in the country.

### 3. Women Transforming India Awards

#### About WTI awards

- Women Transforming India was launched with the aim to celebrate the indomitable spirit of women, working tirelessly to empower themselves or their communities. The campaign is another example of the government’s deep commitment to advancing gender equality.
- The Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards is being organized in collaboration with the United Nations to recognize women entrepreneurs from across India.
- This year’s theme is ‘Women and Entrepreneurship’, in continuation of the theme for WTI Awards 2018.

#### What is Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)?

- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a Government of India initiative by NITI Aayog to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India, assist and handhold them in their journey from starting to scaling up and expanding their ventures.
- It has more than 5,000 women entrepreneurs registered on the platform, more than 30 partners and has committed funding of more than US\$10mn for these start-ups.

#### WEP is built on three pillars- Iccha Shakti, Gyaan Shakti & Karma Shakti

- Iccha Shakti represents motivating aspiring entrepreneurs to start their business

- Gyaan Shakti represents providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship
- Karma Shakti represents providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting-up and scaling up businesses.
- WEP platform, as a driver of change, will also promote offline initiatives and outreach programmes to promote entrepreneurial spirit among potential women entrepreneurs, in collaboration with partner organizations.

#### Why in News?

- The NITI Aayog will launch the Fourth Edition of Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards.
- <https://wep.gov.in/about-wep>
- <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1581748>

### 4. National Workshop on Tribal Enterprise with focus on Honey, Bamboo & Lac

#### What is TRIFED?

- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987. It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India.
- The ultimate objective of TRIFED is socio-economic development of tribal people in the country by way of marketing development of the tribal products on which the lives of tribals depends heavily as they spend most of their time and derive major portion of their income.

#### Bamboo

- India is the world’s second largest cultivator of bamboo after China, with 136 species and 23 generally spread over 13.96 million hectares.
- According to the Union Ministry of Agricultural and Farmer Welfare, India’s

annual Bamboo production is estimated at 3.23 million tons.

- Poor yield of Bamboo is one of the perennial problems in India. In contrast to China's average yield of 50 MT/Ha, the maximal yield range in India is 10-15 MT/ha. This shows that there is a lot of scope for bamboo enterprise based on the good stock.

### Honey

- "As per the latest data from the 'National Bee Board' under the Department of Agriculture, the country's total honey production reported in 2017-18 was 1.05 lakh metric tonnes, compared to the 35,000 metric tonnes in 2005-06.
- The major part of it comes from **Apis Dorsata**.
- With international demand for honey growing, India exports 50 per cent of the commodity and in the last 12 years, exports have increased by 207 per cent.
- As per the latest government estimates, large scale employment in the beekeeping sector is estimated to generate around 3 lakhman-working days by maintaining 10,000 bee colonies.
- The honey is an excellent source of earning and TRIFED is committed towards Prime Minister's vision of a "Sweet Revolution" by way of making people prosper through production and trade in honey.

### Lac

- Lac cultivation in India is mainly confined to the states of Jharkhand which contribute 57% of the total production, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 24% and the balance 19% is contributed by Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal.
- This cultivation has proved to be a subsidiary source of income for the tribals.
- Presently Indian lac export is almost non-existent, which needs to be revived.
- Lac with its availability and possibilities of cultivation in tribal areas has a great potential in creating livelihood and income generation opportunities for tribal communities.

### Why in News?

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs inaugurated a "National Workshop on Tribal Enterprise with focus on Honey,

Bamboo and Lac" organized by TRIFED and M/o Tribal Affairs.

- [http://trifed.in/trifed/\(S/shwkwhuati3doycw3meckdqk\)/introduction.aspx](http://trifed.in/trifed/(S/shwkwhuati3doycw3meckdqk)/introduction.aspx)
- <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1581748>

## 5. One Nation One Ration Card

### Why in News?

- In a major step towards achieving 'One Nation One Ration Card', Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated inter-State portability in two clusters of adjoining States of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana and Gujarat & Maharashtra.
- This move will enable beneficiaries from either States' cluster to avail the benefits accruing to them under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any of the two States.

### Use of inter-State portability:

- This will enable nation-wide portability of ration card holders to receive subsidized food grains under NFSA from anywhere in India by 1st June 2020.
- It is envisaged that the inter-State portability shall be introduced in the 11 States having already implemented intra-State portability by 1st January 2020. The 11 states are: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura.
- All other states and UTs shall be integrated in a phased manner.

### Whom does it benefit?

- The move is especially beneficial for migrant population of the country who move from one part of the country to another in search of employment, for marriage, etc.

### Measures needed:

- Installation of electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) devices at Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is the main enabler of portability of ration card holders, supported by the biometric/Aadhaar authentication.
- More than 4.1 lakh (77%) ePoS devices are already operational in various parts of the country. Also, more than 85% ration cards (at least one member) in the

country have been seeded with the Aadhaar numbers of the beneficiaries.

## 6. Rotavirus vaccine

### What is Rotavirus?

- Rotavirus is a genus of double-stranded RNA viruses in the family Reoviridae. Rotaviruses are the most common cause of diarrhoeal disease among infants and young children. Nearly every child in the world is infected with a rotavirus at least once by the age of five.
- According to WHO estimates in 2013 about 215 000 children aged under 5 years die each year from vaccine-preventable rotavirus infections; the vast majority of these children live in low-income countries.

### Key Points:

- The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that the government has decided to provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child in 36 states and UTs.
- This is in accordance with the government's commitment to end morbidity and mortality in children due to diarrhoea by 2022.
- Diarrhoea is one of the biggest killers in children and Rotavirus is one of the most

common causes of severe diarrhoea in children less than 2 years of age.

- In India, every year 37 out of every 1000 children born are unable to celebrate their 5th birthday, and one of the major reasons for this is diarrheal deaths.
- Out of all the causes of diarrhoea, rotavirus is a leading cause of diarrhoea in children less than 5 years of age.
- It is estimated that rotavirus cause 8,72,000 hospitalizations; 32,70,000 outpatient visits and estimated 78,000 deaths annually in India.
- Rotavirus diarrhoea presents in a similar manner like any other diarrhoea but can mainly be prevented through rotavirus vaccination.

### Rotavirus Vaccine in India

- Rotavirus vaccine was introduced in 2016 in a phased manner.
- Starting with 4 states, it expanded to 11 states by 2018.
- Currently, it is available in 28 states.

### Why in News?

- The Health Ministry has drawn an ambitious plan under the 100-days agenda of the newly elected government, wherein it has been decided to provide Rotavirus vaccine to every child across all 36 states and UTs by September, 2019.

# News in Depth

## AIR NEWS

### 1. India's first 3-D traffic signal

#### What is the need?

- One of the major reasons for traffic congestion is the inefficient working of traffic signal timers installed at intersections.
- Presently, the timers of traffic lights display a preset value which leads to waste of time. For instance, consider a scenario where green light of '20 seconds' is displayed but there is no vehicles were present at that particular intersection - thus leading to unnecessary waste of time.

#### How does it work?

- To tackle this issue, the wireless system, called '**Intelights**', proposes an Intelligent Traffic Timer Control.
- It uses dynamic signal control technology to adjust the timers of red, yellow and green lights according to the traffic density at an intersection.
- The system uses existing CCTV cameras to gather live traffic video feed, and automatically evaluates the traffic density using Artificial Intelligence, and sets the signal timers accordingly.
- This process is repeated for every cycle of traffic lights to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

#### Why in News?

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, Mohali traffic police have launched 3-D Smart Traffic Signal devised by the students of a Chandigarh university.
- <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Mohali-gets-first-3-D-traffic-signal&id=369688>

### 2. Bills to curb Mob lynching

#### Definition of a mob

- The Bill defines the mob as a group of two or more individuals.
- It also defines lynching as "an act or series of acts of violence or those of aiding, abetting or attempting an act of violence, whether spontaneous or pre-planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, and sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation or ethnicity".
- For the offence of an assault by a mob, leading to the victim suffering grievous hurts, the Bill provides for jail terms up to 10 years and a fine of ₹25,000 to ₹3 lakh.
- In cases of the victims suffering simple injuries, the Bill proposes imprisonment up to seven years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh.

#### Other Provisions of Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019:

- For hatching a conspiracy of lynching or aiding, abetting or attempting such an offence, the Bill seeks to punish the offenders in the same manner as if he actually committed the offence of lynching.
- The Bill also empowers the State police chief to appoint a state coordinator of the rank of Inspector General of Police to prevent the incidents of lynching in the State with the district Superintendents of Police acting as the district's coordinator, to be assisted by a Deputy Superintendents of Police, for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching.
- The Bill also enlists various other offences related to the lynching such as dissemination of offensive materials, propagation of hostile environment and

obstructing legal processes, which would be punishable with jail terms varying from three to five years.

- The Bill also stipulates the provision of compensation to victims by the State government as per the Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme.
- It also binds the State government to take necessary measures to rehabilitate the victims of mob lynching, suffering displacements from their native places.
- **Why in News?**
- Rajasthan legislative assembly passed two important bills to curb honour killings and Mob Lynching in the state.
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajasthan-assembly-passes-anti-mob-lynching-bill/article28823205.ece>
- <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Bills-to-curb-mob-lynchings%2c-honour-killings-passed-in-Rajasthan-Assembly&id=369696>

### 3. Quit India Movement

#### About:

- The Quit India Movement, or the August Movement, was a movement launched at

the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.

- It was 77 years ago that All India Congress Committee approved the 'Quit India Resolution' in Bombay Session, paving the way for a mass movement to attain independence.
- As a precursor to India's independence, the Quit India Movement was launched at Mumbai's historic Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan on 8th August 1942.
- Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call of 'Do or Die' inspired thousands of party workers but also created frenzy among the British who rushed to imprison the entire Congress leadership.

#### Why in News?

- India will be observing the 77th anniversary of Quit India Movement on August 8 2019.
- <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Quit-India-Movement-launched-at-Mumbai%E2%80%99s-historic-Gowalia-Tank-Maidan-on-Aug-8%2c-1942&id=369713>

# Hindu Editorial Analysis

## 1. Rajasthan's bill on criminalizing mob lynching (OPED; 5<sup>th</sup> august; The Hindu)

### ▪ GS PAPER II - POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

- Rajasthan becomes the second state after Manipur to have a legislation to criminalize mob violence. The bill Rajasthan Protection from lynching bill, 2019 was introduced in the Rajasthan legislative assembly.

### Background -

- This bill is introduced based on the recommendations of the Supreme Court in *Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. Union of India*, to set up special courts, nodal officer, stringent punishments etc.

### Analysis

- 1. This bill has wider scope as it also provides for relief, legal aid, compensation and rehabilitation of victims.
- 2. The act criminalizes acts of lynching, dissemination of 'offensive material' and fostering of a 'hostile environment'.
- 3. It has a broader definition of lynching - an act or series of acts of violence or aiding, abetting or attempting an act of violence, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob (two or more persons) on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation and ethnicity.

### Limitation -

- It does not cover cases of solitary offences
- Police officers and district magistrates have to take measures to prevent lynching and related
- It does not prescribe any punishment for dereliction of duty unlike the law of Manipur.
- There is a criticism that certain provision like Section 8(c) of the Bill says that whoever commits an act of lynching, where the act leads to the death of the victim, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for life and a fine not be

less than ₹1,00,000 and which may extend to ₹5,00,000, deprives the judiciary of discretion.

- The principle of proportionality in criminal cases is being undermined as same punishment is prescribed for act and attempt of lynching.

### Way forward

- In the context of criminal law and sentencing, the principle of proportionality mandates an adequate balance of the gravity of the crime, the interests of the victim and of society, and the purposes of criminal law. With the threatening increase in incidents of mob violence across the country, such a bill and roust implementation mechanism is necessary to be incorporated in all states. The act of lynching has to be seen in the context of carious interlinked crimes like cyber bullying, data theft, fake news etc and handling these in an integrated manner would be the right step founded on the basis of constitutional fundamental rights of the citizens.

## 2. RBI's Goldilock Cuts

### ▪ GS PAPER III - ECONOMY - Monetary policy

### Context:

- The RBI in its monetary policy committee has decided to lower the repo rate by 35 basis points to 5.4% from the present 5.75%.
- It is seen as an apt decision with the present economic slowdown and inflation.

### Analysis-

1. It is the first time ever that the RBI has decided upon an interest rate which is not a multiple of 25bps.
2. It was predicted to be around 25 or 50 bps for the current cycle. Given the extent of slowdown in the economy, the MPC rejected 25bps as too low considering factors like turbulence in the global financial markets and rupee fall and 50 bps is too high.
3. This has been the fourth policy rate cut since the financial year amounting to

110bps but has not been rightly transmitted to lenders by banks. This is because of tight liquidity conditions.

4. The repo rate is a 9 year low. With rest to be GDP trends, the rates are to be revised downwards.

#### Current rates

- 1. Repo rate – 5.4%
- 2. Reverse repo – 5.15%
- 3. Marginal standing facility – 5.65%

#### Way forward

- The RBI has taken several measures wrt to the monetary policy by adopting an accommodative policy. It is imperative for the banking and the investment system in our economy to give full effect to the rate cuts. The banking system burdened with NPA and liquidity crunch should be able to transfer these benefits into the economy and boost consumption and investment.
- Government has to exercise fiscal restraint and push for reforms to incentivize investment without impacting the fiscal arithmetic. Hence the economic slowdown can be tackled both by monetary and structural changes.

### 3. The hard realities of India's fast track courts

#### ▪ GS PAPER II – Governance

##### Context

- The government has proposed to set up 1023 fast track courts to clear the cases booked under the POCSO act.
- The Supreme Court in a petition issued directions to the government stating that districts with more than 100 cases pending under the POCSO act need to set up special courts.
- Therefore with the increase in such cases and observed inadequacy of the judicial system to deliver speedy justice to children, there is a need for Fast track courts to be highly efficient in functioning and disposing off the pendency of cases. A mere increase in the number of judges is not the only solution.

##### Background

- In India, fast track courts have been set up since 2000. This is seen as an outcome of pendency of cases at the judiciary. But the mere setting up of such FTC has not

substantially reduced the pendency or disposed of the cases.

- According to the Ministry of Law and Justice, at the end of March there were 581 operational FTC with almost 5.9 lakh pending cases and 56% of states and UTs do not have FTC.

#### Analysis

- There is a huge variation in the states in the allocation of cases to these courts. Certain states are primarily allocating cases of rape and sexual offence whereas few other states are allocating other matters also.
- Technical and logistical lacunae are observed in this FTC lack of technological resources like video recording of victims, understaffed etc.
- A data resource of Supreme Court from 2010 to 2017 reflects that mere increase in the strength of judges is not translating into reduction in the pendency of cases.
- Other limiting factors include-
  1. Inadequate staff and IT infrastructure
  2. Delayed forensic reports
  3. Frivolous adjournments
  4. Over listing of cases
  5. Vacancies in subordinate courts

#### Way forward

- It is the responsibility of the state government to designate special judges to FTCs. States must engage with principal and senior district judges to ascertain the problems of the FTC prevailing at ground level. Therefore a robust systematic mechanism to administer speedy disposal of cases is necessary to protect the effectiveness of the judicial system and protect the rights of the citizens.

### 4. Jammu & Kashmir special status abrogated

#### What happened?

- President issued a presidential order under Article 370 (1) of the Constitution. This clause enables the President to specify the matters which are applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. As it can be issued only with the Jammu and Kashmir government's concurrence, the notification uses the words "with the concurrence of the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir". This

presumably means the Governor, who is now administering the State under President's Rule, has given his concurrence on behalf of the State government. The Order supersedes the 1954 Order. This effectively means that all the provisions that formed the basis of a separate "Constitution" for Jammu and Kashmir stand abrogated. The Order declares that all the provisions of the Constitution of India, shall apply to Jammu and Kashmir too.

- The Lok Sabha approved a resolution abrogating special status to **Jammu and Kashmir** under Article 370 of the Constitution and a Bill for splitting the State into two Union Territories. The Bill to create the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh was also passed.

#### Implication -

- The constitution of Jammu and Kashmir formed under article 370 has been replaced with the Indian constitution. Therefore it now means all the laws passed by the parliament in would apply to J&K automatically.

#### Why was article 370 abrogated?

- This move has been adopted to fully integrate J&K into the developmental process of India. The long history separatism and insurgency can be contained under it by providing for a clear counter insurgency preparedness spearheaded by the security forces. However some criticism on this front has been raised.

#### Background

- Under Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had its own Constitution, and all laws passed by Parliament will not be applicable to the State, unless the State government gives its concurrence. The President is empowered to decide what provisions of the Constitution of India would be applicable to the State and what are the exceptions, but with the State government's concurrence.
- The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, lists the Articles and provisions that apply to J&K. Further, the President also listed a set of exceptions under Article 35A of the Constitution (this Article does not figure

in the text of the Constitution of India, but figures only in the J&K's Constitution). While the 1954 presidential order constituted a founding legal document for Jammu and Kashmir, Article 35A protected the exclusive laws - such as the bar on outsiders buying property and women marrying non-Kashmiris losing their property rights - of the State.

#### History

- During the time of Independence, the question of princely states' integration into India or Pakistan was raised. The region of Jammu and Kashmir with almost 77% of the population as Muslims was under the Hindu king Raja Hari Singh. They were fighting for autonomy and have refused to choose either of Pakistan and India.
- During October 1947, after independence armed tribesman invaded Kashmir from Pakistan border. Hence the king signed an instrument of accession with the Governor General of India according to which defence, external affairs and communication were transferred to India's governance. The reason being India a secular state was built on the basis of democracy and people's consensus. Pakistan claimed rights over Kashmir because of the religious identity of the population whereas India's case rested on free public will. Sheik Abdullah spoke for Kashmir in UN 1948 "We shall prefer death rather than join Pakistan. It was this freedom within the Indian UNION THAT Abdullah sought through the constitutional guarantee of article 370.
- Further article 370 was passed which was the umbilical cord to this relationship and was further given form by the presidential order of 1954 ratified by the newly formed Jammu and Kashmir's constituent assembly formalizing the special status of J&K in India.

#### The Indian diplomacy

- It was successful enough in keeping the third parties like UN out of the issue raised by Pakistan which asserted its rights over Kashmir due to its nature of religious population identity. But since the instrument of accession J&K has been an internal matter of India faced with lot of issues subsequently.

### **Afghan war influence**

- Since late 1989 with the influence of withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan resulted in increased insurgency activities in the Kashmir valley and it became a hotbed for separatist demands by Hurriyat leaders and cross border terrorism and terror financing backed by the Pakistani terror agencies.

### **Border dispute -**

- The entire stretch of Indo- Pak border has been volatile with J&K being most vulnerable. The international border is being guarded by SSB and the ceasefire agreement resultant line of control being guarded by the Indian army. This LOC is prone to massive cross border terrorism holding grounds in PoK.

### **Ladakh**

- In parallel the Buddhist dominant Ladakh region has also been demanding for a separation from Jammu and Kashmir.

### **China's influence -**

- There is also China's claim over Aksai chin in the eastern front and PoK by Pakistan in the western front. India and Pakistan has engaged in several wars eg. Kargil war (1999), parliament attack (2001), Mumbai terror attack (2008), Surgical strike (2016) etc with Jammu and Kashmir as the basis of the conflict.
- Therefore this change of status of article 370 would bring systematic changes in the Kashmir valley in the socio-economic fabric, political structure as well as the international relations.

### **The socio-economic perspective**

- Autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir has been preserved till date by certain special exceptions to the state unlike other states of India. One such example is article 35A which provided for special concession to the citizens of J&K.
- Therefore the recent changes especially the abolition of article 35A conferring permanent resident's status to few sections of the population would bring in a complete change in the socio-economic fabric of the state by bringing it at par with other states and would help it integrate with the development process of the nation. The earlier discrimination would go. For instance the descendants of

partition refugees who migrated from Sialkot mostly belonging to the Scheduled Caste will now be able to get education and employment, buy and own land and vote in the new Union Territory.

### **Ladakh -**

- The sentiment of Ladakh wanting to be a part of India as early as 19<sup>th</sup> century has been upheld. Ladakh therefore being a union territory will be advantageous for the development of the region as well as the geostrategic importance of the sensitive border region will be taken care of the security and border disputes with International border with china.
- The demographic balance of J&K will be restored containing the Shia's of the Kargil valley, the Buddhist Ladakhis, the Kashmiri Pundits, Dogras etc.
- A psychological barrier of the Kashmir issue would go bringing real integration with India.

### **The political scenario**

- The special status of J&K is a unique feature of our federal constitution. The constitution makers had envisioned a federal country with a strong center. This federalism is founded on the democratic principle of people's consensus, accommodation and by retaining the individualistic regional, ethnic and linguistic identities. The basis of J&K's accession to India is also based on this principle.
- The demand to abrogate article 370 which is a temporary provision has been long due. But two major criticisms has surfaced one being the downgrading of a state to union territory and the other lack of people's representation in the presidential order as the state had been under President's rule. Hence the legality and constitutional morality of the status of Jammu and Kashmir is currently under scrutiny as article 370 it has been used to scrap article 370.

### **Criticism:**

#### **Executive excess -**

1. The concurrence of the move by the legislative assembly has been substituted by the Governor who under President's rule represents the centre.

- 2. On the basis of this concurrence, the latest presidential order scraps the previous presidential order of 1954.
- 3. The constitutional status of a sensitive border state has been changed with no representative contribution. (But it is promised that gradually after security situation is under control the part of Jammu and Kashmir will be restored with the status of a state with a legislative assembly.
- The election process has been declining since few years with very low voter turnout, cancellation of state elections as well as to the panchayats.
- Implication in the overall federal character of our country as several other states like Nagaland, Manipur etc. enjoy some autonomy. (refer the other editorial on federal implication)

#### The security scenario

- A strong hand method in dealing with separatism and terrorism which has been a hindrance in the development process would prove effective.
- The strong linkage between the Huriyat, PDP, ISI would be broken.
- But temporarily the Situation might worsen as the basis of human intelligence to handle counter insurgency may degrade given the militaristic built up. For eg. The earlier attempt of dilution of article 370 during 1960 was followed by Operation Gibraltar by Pakistani President in 1965. Hence gradual decrease and systematic security mechanism is very important engaging the people preventing them from alienation of the youth with political outreach will improve the situation on ground.

#### 1. The grassroots reach –

- Since the Presidents’ rule is operational, the State Administrative Council has acted with remarkable alacrity to devolve powers to the Panchayati raj institutions which has been implementing various core central schemes with social audits functioning as the monitoring mechanism for education and health institutions, compensating for the absence of regional government.

#### The constitutional question

- The question of constitutional validity and moral grounds of this move would be put to judicial scrutiny. Both the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir as well as India mentions J&K as the integral part of India. Also the rights of citizens like equality, freedom of movement etc. would be interpreted on the basic feature aspect and would most likely pass the judicial test. This had already been a long pending move. Also the question of plebiscite pending under the UN resolution does not arise as the question has earlier been solved constitutionally by the erstwhile constituent assembly of J&K.

#### Way Forward

- The integration process has a long way to go. By bringing all the stakeholders under a common table and restoring the representative power of the state now by restoring the demographic balance will be very effective. The boost of economic investment will be very effective in preventing the youth from alienation and reduce the militancy and separatist tendencies and bring about real development.
- International scenario – refer RSTV debate section
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/explained-how-the-status-of-jammu-and-kashmir-is-being-changed/article28822866.ece>
- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/history-made-in-jk-geography-too-article-370-revoked-state-carved-into-two-uts/articleshow/70546010.cms>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/president-declares-abrogation-of-provisions-of-article-370/article28842850.ece>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRVei1GszXA&t=85s>

## 5. FRAGILITY OF INDIA’S FEDERALISM

- GS PAPER II – CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

#### Context –

- With the abrogation of article 370 under which the state of Jammu and Kashmir enjoys special status, the Pandora’s Box has been opened with respect to the basic

federal feature of the Indian constitution. During the formation of the independent India the constitution makers envisioned a federal country with a strong center. It was then the process of integration of various princely states and widely diverse country.

- Since 1950s reorganization of states on linguistic basis started, subsequently various regional aspirations strengthened by rise of state governments governed by regional parties.
- This article discusses how asymmetric federalism has been a feature of Indian democracy.

### **What is asymmetric federalism?**

- Asymmetric federalism involves the granting of differential rights to certain federal subunits, often in recognition of their distinctive ethnic identity.

### **Significance of this arrangement –**

- In diverse societies knit into a nation this arrangement is vital for accommodating all the sentiments of various groups. India has set an international example of how asymmetric features can help dampen secessionist conflicts by recognizing multiple modes of belonging within the union. The denial of autonomy has been the ground for secessionist claims to grow.
- However it has been contested by majority national communities as promoting unequal special identities within a union. It may lead to regional and ethnic conflicts internally as few groups enjoy some special concession over the other and receive some privileged special identities.

### **Article 370 in the light of asymmetric federalism**

- The negotiation of Article 370 was a transitional and contingent constitutional arrangement agreed in the midst of a continuing conflict while the Indian Constitution was being finalized. Instrument of Accession not only glued Kashmir to Indian Union but also provided it autonomy in its functioning beyond most of the provisions of Indian Constitution.

### **Regional parties and federalism in India: Analysis**

- Emergence of regional political parties and their continuance in certain states
- Contributed to deepening of federalism and growing autonomy of federal units
- Vis-à-vis the Centre. This can also be attributed to coalition politics at national level till 2014.
- Subsequent to the special status of J&K under article 370, certain asymmetric provision was reached for Mizos and Nagas under under 371.
- Sikkim also joined the Indian union in 1972 under article 371F.
- Some provisions of article 371 applies to the states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka aimed at socio-economic development of certain backward regions.
- Therefore asymmetric arrangement not only has political character, but also caters to the overall need of socio-economic development led by governance mechanisms.
- It is observed that provision for autonomy arrangements are also presented as anti-egalitarian because they prevent the extension of rights in force elsewhere in a country. On this point the government argued that removing Article 370 will help in extending reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the newly created Union Territories. Federalism constraining Unitary Power of Central Government
- Political scientist, Alfred Stephan, identified that federal systems can be more or less ‘demos constraining’. It means that federal systems constrains and undermines the consolidation of power by national governments.
- India represents an idea of demos enabling. It means that the design of federalism places fewer checks on the power of national majorities. For eg. Rajya Sabha has lesser power with respect to passing Money Bills as compared to Lok Sabha.
- Indian constitution provides autonomy to states under VII schedule but in times of emergency empowers the Union Government.
- Placing this kind of flexibility in the hands of the Central government was Deliberate

and designed to enable decisive Central action to protect national Integrity in the aftermath of Partition.

- Indian federalism has been deepened by granting the central government the power to create new states or alter states boundaries under article 3, and not giving the states control over it, the constitution enabled the central government to accommodate linguistic and regional minorities by the process of consensus

building which would have been difficult otherwise.

#### **Way forward**

- The abrogation of article 370 has been perceived as a setback in the Indian federalism being critical of the manner in which it is being done. A gradual dialogue and governance model engaging the people of J&K will be fruitful in adding a new dimension which strengthens the dynamic Indian federalism.
- Source: The Hindu 8th august page 8.

# RSTV Big Picture

## 1. Strengthening judicial apparatus

### CONTEXT:

- In India, there is nearly 20 judges for 1 million population which is the least in the world being the second most populous country and largest democracy. The Lok Sabha passed a bill to increase the strength of judges in Supreme Court from the current sanctioned strength of 30 to 33 and 1 chief justice. The Chief Justice of the Supreme court said that more than two lakh cases are in courts for 25 years, while over 1,000 cases have not been disposed of even after five decades and also said that though the judiciary faces criticism for the huge number of pending cases, it is not entirely responsible for the delay as the executive also has some responsibility in the justice delivery mechanism. He also expressed hope that the Centre will accept his proposal to raise the retirement age of high court judges to 65 years from the current 62.

### What is the need to strengthen the judiciary?

- To achieve the directive principle Article 39A of equal justice and free legal aid.
- There is a huge pendency of cases of around 2 lakh cases.
- There is a huge problem of shortage of judges at all levels of judiciary which is not proportionate to the growing population and increasing citizenry awareness.
- At the apex level, it is observed that there is accumulation of routine appeal cases and bail matters over the years which overburdens the Supreme Court leading to lesser time and judges for constitutional cases.
- Old cases are not being taken up for hearing
- The role of executive in decreasing the burden on judiciary is vital as government is the highest litigant.

- There is no uniformity between the judges of the high courts in listing of cases and administrative system.
- At the lower judiciary the quality of judges is a serious concern.
- Appointment of judges at all levels and the tussle between the judiciary and the executive hinders the process and leads to shortage of judges.
- Multiple laws on various rights related aspects also contribute to accumulation of cases in judiciary.

### What is the role of executive and legislature?

- The executive performs the crucial function of financial allocations and ensuring good technologically backed infrastructure for our judicial system.
- Setting up of trial courts and digital platforms for easy justice delivery mechanism.
- Setting up standards judicial services.
- Setting up national judicial appointments commission
- Reduce the amount of litigations of government.
- Cleaning up old statutes
- Bring out a mechanism for large recruitment of judges either by UPSC or similar mechanism.

### What can be done?

- There are several law commission reports like no. 245 on creating additional manpower in judiciary; Report no.229 on creating separate constitutional courts and Cassation benches which can be implemented.
- Diversification of specialization at the apex level is very crucial like forming appellate courts, constitutional courts, and several benches of Supreme Courts etc.
- Allocate old cases on priority basis in a systematic manner.
- Improve the quality of judges as well as the justice delivery mechanism by technological upgradation and specialization.
- On the administrative end, standardization and uniformity across

high courts and district courts; appointment of professional court managers.

- With respect to judge in higher judiciary, the age of retirement can be increased for high court judges from 62 to 65.
- Post retirement appointments for adhoc tribunals can also be increased.
- Widening alternative dispute redressal mechanisms like arbitration mechanism, Lok Adalats etc.
- Technical and procedural change like setting up time limits for oral arguments, restriction with the time duration for a particular case, video conferencing.
- Monitoring of district judiciary is an important aspect which the responsibility of high courts.

#### Way forward

- Pendency of cases especially at the apex level is a matter of serious concern as it reduces the effectiveness of the Supreme Court in important constitutional matters. Priority to decreasing the cases at this level will also have an effect on the huge pendency in lower courts. For eg. The constitutional interpretation of section 377, 498 of IPC would make such cases in lower courts null and void.
- Also to curtail further accumulation of cases with more aware citizens there is need to completely revitalize the judicial system to match the needs of this public for which a white paper could be floated which would include the views of all the stakeholders ranging from district courts, prisons, high courts, civil society organizations etc.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhL4o4UCiSM>

## 2. India-Pak Relations

### PM's Address

- Article 370 and 35A used by Pakistan to Anti-India Sentiments and tendencies. They Lead to Separatism
- Issues touched upon in the speech- Inequity in terms of Inheritance to descendents of Kashmir woman who married outside their state. Other lesser known Problematic issues like Valmikis and Gurkhas who could only be employed as Sanitation workers and Watchmen.

People who migrated to J&K from West Pakistan in 1947, could not exercise their voting right for legislative assembly elections.

### The Future (Way Forward)-

- The Immense Potential for the place to become a Tourism hub, and Solar energy potential etc. The High Revenue Deficit of the State needs to be targeted. The Goal is for a Prosperous n Progressive J&K.
- Creation of more Urban Agglomerations, decongest major cities like jammu and Srinagar and improve more climate-friendly locations to develop, nurture Investments and employment, defang the sections present in J&K who benefitted from the insecurity and thrived to induce tensions.

### TIES WITH PAKISTAN –

- The Recent cancellation of Indian High Comissioners and snapping of Diplomatic Ties initiated by Pakistan, can lead to a possible escalation of Tensions.
- Pakistan under Political stress domestically and in International Scenario, due to US's Stance with Pakistan, The Grey List Status of it in FATF and Pressure regarding combating Terrorism.
- Also there is inherent contradiction in the argument that is being raised, as Pakistan never recognised the Statement of Accession and hence, Article 370. The Outrage expressed now over the Abrogation of Article 370, hence doesn't holdup.
- This Change has also changed the terms on which India-Pakistan Bilateral Ties happen, as the possibility of Kashmir as an outstanding issue is now redundant.
- A Major Change in the way of India-Pak , as Kashmir is now indisputably an integral part of India. So the discussion on the Issue has been removed and shifted to purely ties without Kashmir.
- The Areas of Gilgit, Baltistan, Mirpur and Muzzafarbad that are referred to as Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) should now be negotiated.

### AKSAI-CHIN & INDIA-CHINA TIES-

- The borders around Aksai Chin were never formally demarcated. Aksai-chin, now under Chinese occupation but there

is enough Historical evidence to support its part in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The Issue should be kept alive in the diplomatic talks between India and China.
- Post the Doklam Crisis and Wuhan talks between India and China, there are a clear understanding between both the nations that, to realise the full potential of the relations, peace and tranquillity is absolutely necessary.
- Hence, The borders and LAC with respect to Aksai Chin, have been largely peaceful for the past few years. Military Interventions, on this front are unnecessary and detrimental.
- It is also encouraging that both the countries have similar roadmaps and consensus on issues about economies and Geo-politics. This will help in maintaining peace and adopting a diplomacy to solve the border issue.

#### **INDIA'S STAND-**

- The Repeal of certain sections of Article 370 were necessary, as it was creating hurdles for governance and Socio-economic development.
- India strongly maintained that it is an internal matter and hence cannot encourage outside interventions.
- The time was right for the move because the pressure from China and SCO nations in recent meet to resolve the issues with Pakistan was increasing and the US's Policy and interest in resolving the conflict have made the leaders of India realise the need to do this.
- The IISS survey in London conducted a survey with population of Gilgit-Baltistan to choose between India, Pakistan and freedom, the results were in favour of India.

#### **THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO-**

- The Countries of the world have seen Kashmir issue as purely a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. Because of India's insistence on this particular issue, the efforts by Pakistan to get the UN and

US to stop the move and alleged Human right violations, did not give the required results.

- It is a triumph of the Indian Diplomacy and the work which went into shaping the world's opinion on India over several years.
- It is a representation of the raising stature of India in the international platform over the last decade.
- Also, Because of the History and the lack of development in the areas of POK are factors in diluting Pakistan's Stance and lack of support for it with other countries.

#### **WAY FORWARD-**

- The UN Secretary General's Statement highlights the Shimla Agreement and Human rights violations. This calls for an effective response from India, to address the concerns and reiterate the nature of Shimla agreement, i.e of a bilateral system to resolve disputes and also only wrt POK.
- There need to be proactive steps to bring about normalcy after the curfew is lifted. Security Measures for maintain internal peace and also more alertness regarding the Borders and LOC, Kargil and Ladakh regions.
- On other hand, in Mainstream Society and Media, Perception Management should be taken up to address the concern of the people and ensure the ground realities are talked about. Innovative Measures in the next few months are very crucial.
- The Alienation which has been there historically should be worked upon. The Identity and ethnicity, which is of pivotal importance to subdue the concerns regarding the repeal of article 35A and owning of land etc.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=736WBAX4vQ&t=72s>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGMUrwnbxE8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Lzrwp8R8Ow>