

[BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS – July 1, 2019](#)

Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Panmunjom, South Korea, for the third time in over a year

- U.S. President Donald Trump became the first sitting U.S. President to set foot in North Korea where he met its leader, Kim Jongun in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas and agreed to resume stalled nuclear talks.



- Mr. Trump, escorted by Mr. Kim, briefly crossed a military demarcation line into the North side of the Joint Security Area (JSA), patrolled by soldiers from both Koreas.
- Moments later, they returned to the southern side and joined South Korea's President Moon Jae-in for a brief chat, marking an unprecedented three way gathering. Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim then held a closed-door meeting for nearly an hour.

Historic event of Donald Trump & Kim Jong-un:

Event	Date
Singapore summit	12-june-2018
Hanoi summit	27-february-2019
After G-20 summit (in Panmunjom, (JSA))	30-june-2019

What is DMZ?

- The demilitarized zone (a No Man's Land), which separates North and South Korea was established in July 27th, 1953. It is a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula and was established at the end of the Korean War as a buffer zone between North and South Korea. It is a de facto border and is the most heavily militarized border in the world.

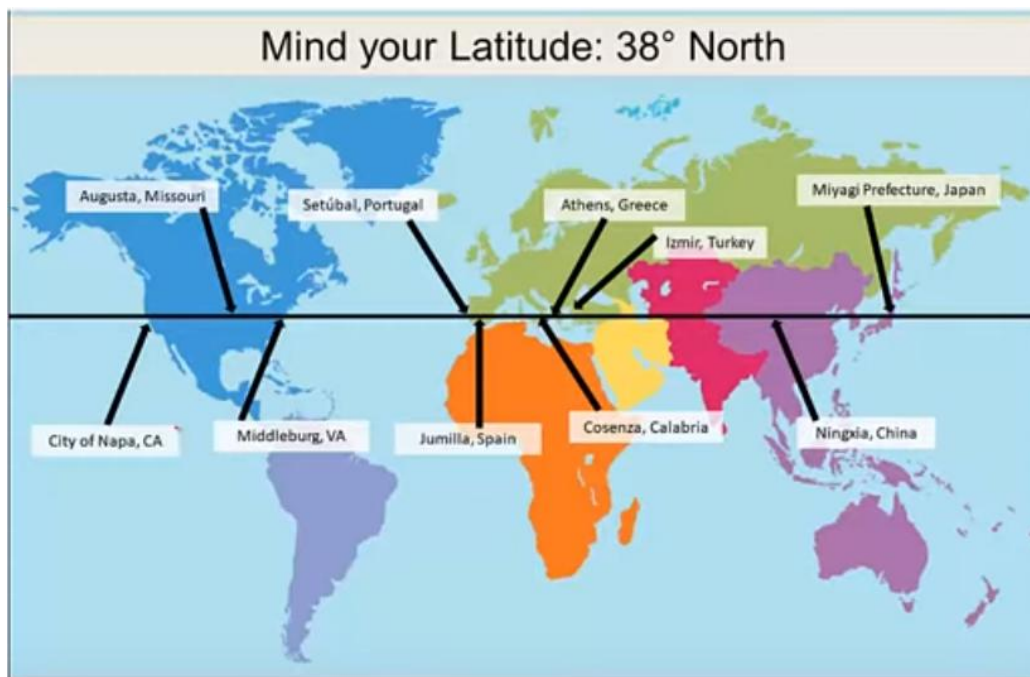


What is Joint Security Area?

- The Joint Security Area (JSA, often referred to as the Truce Village or Panmunjom) is the only portion of the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where North and South Korean forces stand face-to-face. The JSA is used by the two Koreas for diplomatic engagements

Latitude which separates North Korea and South Korea:

- The 38th parallel north formed the border between North and South Korea prior to the Korean War.



- The 38th parallel line passes through the following countries, seas, oceans:
 - Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, People's Republic of China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, United States, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece.
 - Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Caspian Sea, Yellow Sea,
 - Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean

N. Chandrababu Naidu decides to form ‘shadow cabinet’ to track Jagan Mohan regime

- Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu is forming a “shadow cabinet” to keep a close watch on the working of the Jagan Mohan Reddy government.

What is Shadow cabinet?

- ‘Shadow cabinet’ is a unique institution of the British cabinet system. It is formed by the opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future ministerial office. There is no such institution in India.

Leader of the Opposition

- In each House of Parliament, there is the ‘Leader of the Opposition’. The leader of the largest Opposition party having not less than *one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House* is recognised as the leader of the Opposition in that House.
- It was in 1969 (middle of 4th Lok Sabha) that an official leader of the opposition was recognised for the first time.

s. no	Lok sabha	Leader of wining party	Term
1	5 th L.S	Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi	1970 – 1977

- His main functions are to provide a constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government.

- Therefore, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded *statutory recognition in 1977*.
- They are also entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister.
- Leaders who had ***No Leader of Opposition in lok sabha (L.S)*** during their reign are as follows

S. No	Lok Sabha	Leader Of Wining Party	Term
2	7 th L.S	Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi	1979 – 1984
3	8 th L.S	Rajiv Ratna Gandhi	1984 – 1989
4	16 th L.S	Narendra Damodardas Modi	2014 – 2019
5	17 th L.S	Narendra Damodardas Modi	2019- till now

Powers of Leader of opposition:

- The Central Information Commission was established by the Central Government in 2005. It was constituted through an Official Gazette Notification under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). (Hence, it is not a constitutional body.)
 - The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the

Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

- The Right to Information Act of 2005 provides for the creation of not only the Central Information Commission but also a State Information Commission at the state level.
 - The Commission consists of a State Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten State Information Commissioners. They are appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Chief Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and a State Cabinet Minister nominated by the Chief Minister.
- The Central Government shall appoint *the Director of CBI* on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.
- The lokayukta and upalokayukta are appointed by the governor of the state. While appointing, the governor in most of the states consults (a) the chief justice of the state high court, and (b) the leader of Opposition in the state legislative assembly

Shadow cabinet in British political system:

- The British political system has a unique institution called the 'Shadow Cabinet'. It is formed by the Opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future ministerial offices.
- In this shadow cabinet, almost every member in the ruling cabinet is 'shadowed' by a corresponding member in the opposition cabinet.

This shadow cabinet serves as the 'alternate cabinet' if there is change of government.

- That is why Ivor Jennings described the leader of Opposition as the 'alternative Prime Minister'. He enjoys the status of a minister and is paid by the government.

Nagaland to initiate its own version of NRC from July 10

- Nagaland has decided to start a variant of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that neighbouring Assam is updating.
- The drive for collecting information has a 60day deadline
- It is aimed at preparing a master list of all indigenous peoples and checking the issuance of fake indigenous inhabitant certificates.

Citizen check

A look at some key statistics of Nagaland, which is setting up a register of indigenous inhabitants

Population*: **1,988,636**

No. of tribal and non-tribal communities: **25**

Population of 16 recognised tribes: **90%**

Unlike other States, Nagaland's decadal population dropped by **0.47%** between 2001 and 2011

Decadal growth in the 1980s: **56%**

Decadal growth in the 1990s: **65%**

* Census 2011



A Konyak Naga tribesman in traditional attire

About Nagaland:

- The state capital is: **Kohima**







- The state is inhabited by **17 tribes** — Angami, Ao, Chakhesang, Chang, Khiamniungan, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Pochury, Rengma, Sangtam, Sumi, Yimchunger, Zeme-Liangmai (Zeliang), Dimasa Kachari, Kuki and Rongmei [Kabui].
- There are only One (1) National Parks and Total number of Wildlife Sanctuaries is Three (3) in Nagaland.

S. No.	Name of National Park	Year
1	Intanki National Park	1993
S. No.	Wild life sanctuary	Year
1	Fakim wild life sanctuary	1980
2	Puliebadze wild life sanctuary	1980
3	Rangapara wild life sanctuary	1986

Tamil Nadu now officially has a State Butterfly

- ‘Tamil yeoman’ (*Cirrochroa thais*) or the ‘Tamizh Maravan’ Species is endemic to Western Ghats
- The State has formally notified the ‘Tamil yeoman’ (*Cirrochroa thais*) or the ‘Tamizh Maravan’ by an order on the lines of the State Tree (Palm), Bird (Emerald Dove), Flower (Gloriosa) and Animal (Nilgiri Tahr).

- The ‘Tamil yeoman’ was chosen for the honour after both the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and conservation groups decided to work together to identify a butterfly species that could be “iconic, easily recognizable and easy to spot,” to serve as another symbol of the State, highlighting its rich biodiversity, a Forest Department

S. No.	Butterfly	Common name (scientific name)	State butterfly of
1		Blue Mormon (Papilio polymnestor)	Maharashtra
2		Southern Birdwing (Troides Minos)	Karnataka
3		Common Peacock (Papilio bianor)	Uttarkhand
4		‘Tamil yeoman’ or the ‘Tamizh Maravan’. (Cirrochroa thais)	Tamil nadu

After Bihar, Uttar Pradesh braces for AES season

- Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, a group of diseases that wreaks havoc in part of east Uttar Pradesh in the monsoon season.
- The disease hits the peak during monsoons, from July to October.

About AES:

- Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) is a serious public health problem in India.
- It is characterized as acute-onset of fever and a change in mental status (mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma) and/or new-onset of seizures in a person of any age at any time of the year.
- The disease most commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- Viruses are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins and noninfectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades.
- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
- Nipah virus, Zika virus are also found as causative agents for AES.
- In India, AES outbreaks in north and eastern India have been linked to children *eating unripe litchi fruit on empty stomachs*.
- Unripe fruit contain the *toxins hypoglycin A and methylene-cyclopropyl-glycine (MCPG)*, which cause vomiting if ingested in large quantities.

- **Hypoglycin A** is a naturally occurring amino acid found in the unripened litchi that causes severe vomiting (Jamaican vomiting sickness).
- **MCPG**: is a poisonous compound found in litchi seeds.

Rhino protection force deployed in kaziranga

- An 82member special protection force (SRPF) trained to combat poachers and understand animal behaviour was deployed in the Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
- The SRPF is basically a tiger protection force named after the rhino since the threat of poaching is more for the one-horned herbivore.
- KNP encompasses eight ranges under two wildlife divisions — *Eastern Assam and Biswanath* — straddling the river Brahmaputra.

What is a National Park

- An area, whether within a sanctuary or not, can be notified by the state government to be constituted as a National Park.
- No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state under the conditions given in CHAPTER IV, WPA 1972.

State	National park	year
Tamil Nadu	Guindy NP	1976
Tamil Nadu	Gulf of Mannar Marine NP	1980
Tamil Nadu	Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) NP	1989
Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai NP	1990
Tamil Nadu	Mukurthi NP	1990

BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS – July 2, 2019

The Tamil Nadu government scouts locations for ‘Blue Flag beach’ programme

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched pilot project ‘Blue Flag’ to develop and enhance standards of cleanliness on beaches. Increase upkeep and basic amenities at beaches.
- The Tamil Nadu government is scouting suitable locations to implement a ‘Blue Flag beach’ programme, which will be funded by the Central government. The areas developed under the scheme will follow strict environmental, safety and accessibility criteria.
- Initially, a proposal to develop Mahabalipuram under the programme was floated, as a pilot project, but officials found the waves and currents there to be quite strong. They are now looking at areas like **Pulicat** and other places where the quality of water is good,
- “The main focus of the ‘Blue Flag beach’ programme is on attracting domestic and international tourists, besides sustainably managing beach spaces,” he said.
- Right now, there are two ‘Blue Flag’ certified beaches in India,
 1. Odisha
 2. Gujarat.

What is Blue Flag Certification?

- The ‘Blue Flag’ is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, marina or

sustainable boating tourism operator, meets its stringent standards.

- Standards for FEE's Blue Flag criteria include
 - standards for water quality
 - safety
 - environmental education and information
 - the provision of services
 - general environmental management criteria

What is Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)?

- The FEE is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education.
- It was established in 1981.
- It is headquartered at Copenhagen, Denmark.
- It is active through five programmes
 - Eco-Schools
 - Blue Flag
 - Young Reporters for Environment (YRE)
 - Green Key Learning about Forests (LEAF).
 - Certificates, which FEE refers to as awards, are issued on an annual basis to beaches and marinas of FEE member countries.
- Spain has held the 1st position for nearly three decades since the awards began in 1987.

About Pulicat lake

- Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water lake or lagoon in India after Chilika Lake.

- It is located on border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with over 96% of it in Andhra Pradesh and 4% in Tamil Nadu situated on Coromandal Coast in South India.
- The lake encompasses Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary.

What is brackish water?

- Brackish water is water having more salinity than freshwater, but not as much as seawater.
- It may result from mixing seawater with fresh water together, as in estuaries, or it may occur in brackish fossil aquifers.

What is aquifer?

- An aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, rock fractures or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, or silt).

BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS – July 3, 2019

US senate clears proposal to bring India on a par with its NATO allies

- The US senate has passed a legislative provision that brings India on par with Washington's North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies and countries such as Israel and South Korea for increasing defence co-operation.
- The National Defense Authorization Act (or) NDAA for fiscal 2020, that contained the proposal was passed by the US senate.
- This proposal allows India to buy more advanced and sensitive technologies from America on par with that of the closest allies

and partners of the US, and ensures enduring co-operation in this sphere.

(NATO) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

- It is an Inter-Governmental military alliance between 29 (North American and European) countries.
- The organisation that implants the North Atlantic Treaty was signed on 4-April-1949.
- NATO constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member state agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- The most recent member state to be added to NATO is : “Montenegro on 5-June-2017”.

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- NDAA is the name for each of a series of United States federal laws specifying the annual budget and expenditures of the US department of defense.
- The US Congress oversees the defense budget primarily through two yearly bills:
 1. The National Defense Authorization Act &
 2. Defense appropriations bills.

Chief Minister rules out implementation of 10% EWS quota without consenses

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami ruled out implementation of the 10% quota for Economically Weaker

Sections (EWS) among the open competition category in medical admissions sans political consensus.

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami assured that Under any circumstances, the government will continue to implement the 69% reservation

Economically Weaker Sections (EWS):

- EWS in India is a subcategory of people to the general category having an annual family income less than `8 lakhs.
- On 7-January-2019, the union cabinet had approved. 10% reservation in government jobs and educational constitutions for the EWS in the general category.
- The EWS bill was tabled in Lok Sabha on 8-January-2019 and it was passed on the same day (124th Amendment Bill).
- The EWS bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 9-January-2019
- The President approved the bill on 12-January-2019 and a gazette was released on this bill which turned into a law.
- “Gujarat” became the first state to enact this law on 14-January-2019

69% Reservation:

- **Seventy-Sixth Amendment Act, 1994** Included the Tamil Nadu Reservation Act of 1994 (which provides for 69 per cent reservation of seats in educational institutions and posts in state services) in the Ninth Schedule to protect it from judicial review.
- In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled that the total reservation should not exceed 50 per cent.

JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE NINTH SCHEDULE

- **Article 31B** saves the acts and regulations included in the Ninth Schedule from being challenged and invalidated on the ground of contravention of any of the Fundamental Rights.
- Article 31B along with the Ninth Schedule was added by the **1st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1951**. Originally (in 1951), the Ninth Schedule contained only 13 acts and regulations but at present (in 2016) their number is 282. 11 Of these, the acts and regulations of the state legislature deal with land reforms and abolition of the zamindari system and that of the Parliament deal with other matters.

T.N Second in amount claimed under PM's insurance scheme

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY):

- Ayushman Bharat is an attempt to move from settoral and segmented approach of health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based health care service.
- Ayushman Bharat aims to undertake breaking interventions to holistically address health at primary, secondary and tertiary level.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):

Which provides health protection cover to poor and vulnerable families.

- Features of Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana) :
 - Annual benefit cover of `5,00,000/- per family per year for secondary and tertiary treatment on cashless and paperless basis.

- No limit on family size.
- Tamil Nadu CM's "Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme" (CMCHIS):
 - CMCHIS was started in 2012.
 - This scheme seeks to provide cashless hospitalization facility for certain specified ailments/procedures.
 - The scheme provides coverage upto `5,00,000/- per family per year on a floater basis.

State to claim more amount through AB-PMJAY	Rank
Gujarat	1
Tamil Nadu	2

State with Number of claims through AB-PMJAY	Rank
Chhattisgarh	1
Gujarat	2
Kerala	3
Tamil Nadu	4

Mekedatu to claim 52/5 sq.km of Forest:

About the Project

- Karnataka Government has submitted a detailed project report (DPR) of the Mekedatu project to Central Water Commission (CWC). As per DPR of 2017, the total project cost will be the `5,900 crore, but the cost of project shoots up by `3,000 crores.
- Mekedatu dam project set up by the Karnataka Govt., the project is near Mekedatu, in Ramanagaram district, across the river Cauvery from Tamil Nadu.

- Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the ground water table in the region.
- The pre-feasibility report for the project, as a part of environmental clearances, puts definite numbers to the large-scale submergence in the core area of the “Cauvery wild life sanctuary” – 31.81 sq.km.

Project under controversy with Tamil Nadu:

- T.N vehemently opposing construction on fears that it will result in lower releases of water to state environmentalists fear irreversible damage to the eco-system at the cauvery wild life sanctuary.

Facts about Cauvery River:

- River rises on “Brahmagiri Hill” on the Western Ghats in South-Western Karnataka state.
- It flows in a South-Easterly direction for 475 miles through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- Before emptying into the Bay of Bengal South of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, the river breaks into a large number of distributaries.
- On the upper course, at the Krishnaraja Sagara, the Kavery is joined by two tributaries.
 - The Hemavati and
 - The Lakshmantirtha

Where a dam was constructed for irrigation.

- Upon entering T.N., the Kavery continues through a series of twisted wild gorges until it reaches “Hogenakal falls”. There the Mettur dam was constructed for irrigation and hydel power.
- The Kaveris main tributaries are:
 - The Kabani
 - The Amaravati
 - The Noyil
 - The Bhavani rivers

Arguments of T.N.:

- Proposed reservoir violates the decisions of the SC and the Cauvery tribunal. The Supreme Court noted that the existing storage in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka should be taken into account for ensuring water releases to Tamil Nadu during the period of June to January.

About Cauvery wild life sanctuary:

- It is protected area located in the Mandya, Chamarajanagar, and Ramanagar districts of Karnataka, India.
- The Cauvery river passes through its midst.
- An area of 510.52 km² was established as Cauvery wild life sanctuary on 14 January, 1987 under Section 18 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1973.
- The sanctuary was expanded to its current area of 1027.53 sq.km in 2013.

Congress seeks Lok Sabha Post

- Mr. Modi had said on the first day of the 17th Lok Sabha on June 18, 2019 that a vibrant opposition, notwithstanding its numbers, was important in a parliamentary democracy.
- Renewing the Congress's call for the post of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the party's chief whip said that INC is technically eligible for the post, and Modi should accord it the position if he was sincere about his comments on the Opposition.
- The Congress, which is second largest party in the house after BJP, has only 52 members.

Norms and figures of Opposition Party:

- By Norms, the Leader of the Opposition is the leader of the largest party that has not less than a tenth of the total strength of the House (*i.e.*, 55 members).

Lok Sabha:

- Members of the Lok Sabha are elected by adult “universal suffrage” and a “first-past-the-post” system to represent their respective constituencies.
- The maximum strength of the house allotted by the constitution of India is 552 seats.
- Currently, the house has 545 seats.
- Out of 545 seats:
 - 543 are elected members

- 2 nominated members of the Anglo-Indian Community by the President of India.

Parliament Act, 1977:

- The salary and allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 only says that the largest Opposition party should get the post.
- “Leader of the Opposition” is the **“Leader in that house of the party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised as such by the Chairman of the Council of States (or) the speaker of the house of the people, as the case may be”**, says the Act.

Union Minister opposes UP move to shift 17 OBCs to SC list

- The Uttar Pradesh government’s move to shift 17 OBCs to the Schedule Caste list is unconstitutional and it is a transgression of Parliament’s jurisdiction, Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot said in the Rajya Sabha.
- “This is not proper and not constitutional”, he said in reply to Satish Chandra Misra of the BSP, who raised the issue during the Zero Hour.

Article 341:

- Under Article 341(2) of the constitution, the power to make changes in the Schedule Caste list lay only with parliament.
- Even President does not have the power make changes in the SC list.

Sessions in parliament

- Question Hour
- Zero Hour

Question Hour

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is allotted for this.
- The concerned Minister is obliged to answer to the parliament, either orally (or) in writing, depending on the type of question raised.
- Question hour is not mentioned in the constitution.
- It finds mention in the rules of procedure of the house.

Zero Hour

- Zero Hour is a 30 minute's session wherein a member gets 3 minutes to raise the issue.
- Moreover, a member is allowed to make only one Zero Hour request during a week.
- Zero Hour is an Indian innovation and has been in existence since 1962.
- It is an informal device available to the members of parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.
- Unlike the Question Hour, it is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

Assam deportations to be data-driven:

- The Union government is enabling platform to digitise records of all persons who will be declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) in Assam after the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) is published.
- The E-Foreigners Tribunals (e-FTs) will store biometrics such as fingerprints and iris scans of such persons, and help the External Affairs Ministry expedite deportation in appropriate cases by reducing paperwork.
- e-FTs will record the biometrics of those who have filed claims and the UIDAI is storing it in its server”.
- Assam’s Home Commissioner and Secretary Ashutosh Agnihotri says that, “The implementation of e-FT approved by the Centre is in progress and the basic aim is to integrate all nodes in the ecosystem, including:
 - FTs
 - NRC
 - Border Police

National Register of Citizens of India (NRC)

- NRC is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens.
- The register was first prepared after the 1951 census of India.
- This accord prescribed mid-night of March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for detection, detention and deportation of illegal migrants.

Border Police (or) Assam Police Border Organisation:

- It was formed in 1962 under the prevention of infiltration of Pakistan's scheme.

Foreign Tribunals (FT):

- With Assam's National Register of citizens as the backdrop, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has laid out specific guidelines to detect, detain and deport foreign nationals staying illegally across the country.
- The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all states and union territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not, under the Passport Act, 1920 (or) the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Supreme Court seeks Election Commission's of India response on cash transfer schemes during polls.

- The Supreme Court sought a response from ECI on a plea to declare the implementation of direct cash transfer schemes in the centre and six states immediately before or during polls as (1) "illegal or unconstitutional" and (2) contrary to the "right of equal participation of each citizen in polity".
- The six states are:
 1. Andhra Pradesh
 2. Karnataka
 3. Telangana
 4. West Bengal

5. Odisha & Jharkhand

- Direct Cash Transfer Schemes are:
 1. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme
 2. Pasupu Kumkuma
 3. NTR Atmabandhu
 4. Rytu Bandhu
 5. KALIA
 6. Mukhya Mantri Krishi Yojana.
- Plea is considered under Article 324

Part XV of the constitution of India

- Part XV of the constitution of India consists of Articles of Electoral system (Article 324 to 329).
- Article 324: Provides for an independent Election Commission in order to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
 - Power to superintendence, direction and conduct of elections to the parliament, the state legislatures, the office of the President and the office of Vice President is vested in the commission.
- At present, the Election Commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
 - Present Chief Election Commissioner = Sunil Arora (23rd EC)
 - Two Election Commissioners = (1) Sh. Ashok Lavasa, (2) Sh. Sushil Chandra

Section 123(3) of RPA 1951:

- It deals with the major concept practices during election process.
They are:

- **Bribery:** If a candidate or his agent bribes any person to stand or not to stand; to withdraw his candidature or an elector to favour in voting.
- **Inference in election rights:** Influencing (or) attempting to interfere by threatening any candidate or elector.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

- PM-KSNY is an initiative by the Govt. of India in which 120 million small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares of landholding will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support.

Pasupu Kumkuma Scheme

- Andhra Pradesh has launched the scheme to provide financial assistance to women victims, registered with Self Help Groups (SHG).
- Under this scheme, the beneficiaries of SHGs Group will be provided with ₹10,000 in three phases.

Rythu Bandhu Scheme

- Telangana government has launched this scheme as farmers investment support scheme to support farmers investment for two crops a year (for Rabi and Kharif seasons.)
- Telangana government is providing ₹4000 per acre per season to support the farm investment.

Mukhyamantri Krishi Ashirwad Yojana

- The C.M of Jharkhand has announced this scheme towards the development of the Kharif crops.
- Small and marginal agricultural farmers with ₹5,000 for every acre of land holding.

Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation Scheme (KALIA)

- Odisha government has launched this scheme for needy and poor farmers who have taken credit loans from the bank.
- Financial support of ₹10,000 per year will be provided.

Lithium-ion Giga Units Mooted

- NITI Aayog has proposed the establishment of giga factories in India for the manufacture of lithium-ion batteries in the next couple of years.
- Electric Three-wheelers would be sold in the country after → March 31, 2023
- Electric Two-wheelers below 150cc would be sold in the country after → March 31, 2025.
- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman → Rajiv Kumar



NITI Aayog

- National institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the union cabinet on 1-January-2015.
- NITI Aayog is the premier policy “Think Tank” of the Government of India.
- At the core of NITI Aayog’s creation are two hubs:
 - Team India Hub
 - The Knowledge and Innovation Hub

Team India Hub

- Leads the engagement of states with the Central government.
- While the Knowledge and Innovation Hub These hubs reflect the two key tasks of the Aayog.

The Knowledge and Innovation Hub

- Builds NITI’s think-tank capabilities.

Chairperson	Shri Narendra Modi
Vice Chairperson	Dr. Rajiv Kumar
Full-Time Member	Prof. Ramesh Chand
Full-Time Member	Profile - Shri V.K. Saraswat
Full-Time Member	Profile - Dr. V.K. Paul
Chief Executive Officer	Shri Amitabh Kant

Centre ratifies Convention to curb Company Profit Shifting

- The Government had ratified the international agreement to curb “Base Erosion and Profits Shifting”, a bid to stop companies from moving their profits out of the country and depriving the government of tax revenue.
- India has ratified the “Multilateral Instruments (MLI) Tax Treaty Related Measures to prevent “Base Erosion and Profit Shifting” (BEPS).

BEPS

- It refers to the phenomenon where companies shift their profits to other tax jurisdictions, which usually have lower rates, thereby eroding the tax base in India.

MLI

- It is a result of concerted work by the G20 countries to tackle the issue of BEPS.

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) will be modified by MLI.

MLI will come into force for India from October 1, 2019.

- MLI will be applied alongside existing tax treaties, modifying their application in order to implement the BEPS measures.

G20

- G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).

- The G20 was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
- G20 – 2018 held at → Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- G20 – 2019 held at → Japan
- G20 – 2020 held at → Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)

RBI Deputy Governor gets extension

- The government has extended the tenure of “N.S. Vishwanathan”, one of the four Deputy Governors of the RBI by one year.
- Mr. Vishwanathan is in charge of banking and non-banking regulations, Financial Stability Unit, inspection department and risk monitoring department, among others.

Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India was established on 1-April-1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The Central Office of the RBI was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- Though originally privately owned, since nationalisation in 1949, the RBI is fully owned by Government of India.
- The Reserve Banks affairs are governed by a Central board of directors.

Official Directors

- Governor

- Not more than 4 Deputy-Governor

Non-Official Directors

- **Nominated by Government:** 10 Directors from various fields and two government officials
- **Others:** 4 Directors – One each from 4 local boards (*i.e.*, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, New Delhi)

Governor	Shri Shaktikanta Das
Deputy Governors	Shri N.S. Vishwanathan Dr. Viral Acharya Shri B.P. Kanungo Shri Mahesh Kumar Jain

[BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS – July 4, 2019](#)

IOC gearing up to supply low-sulphur fuels to State by 2020

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) is on track to supply the cleaner Bharat Stage VI fuels in the State next year (2020).
- Already the company has been supplying the fuel sourced from its Mathura refinery to the automobile industry for trials and a pump in Mettupalayam is selling it on a trial basis for Mahindra vehicles.
- Bharat Stage emission standards
- Bharat stage emission standards (BSES) are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air

pollutants from internal combustion engines and Spark-ignition engines equipment, including motor vehicles.

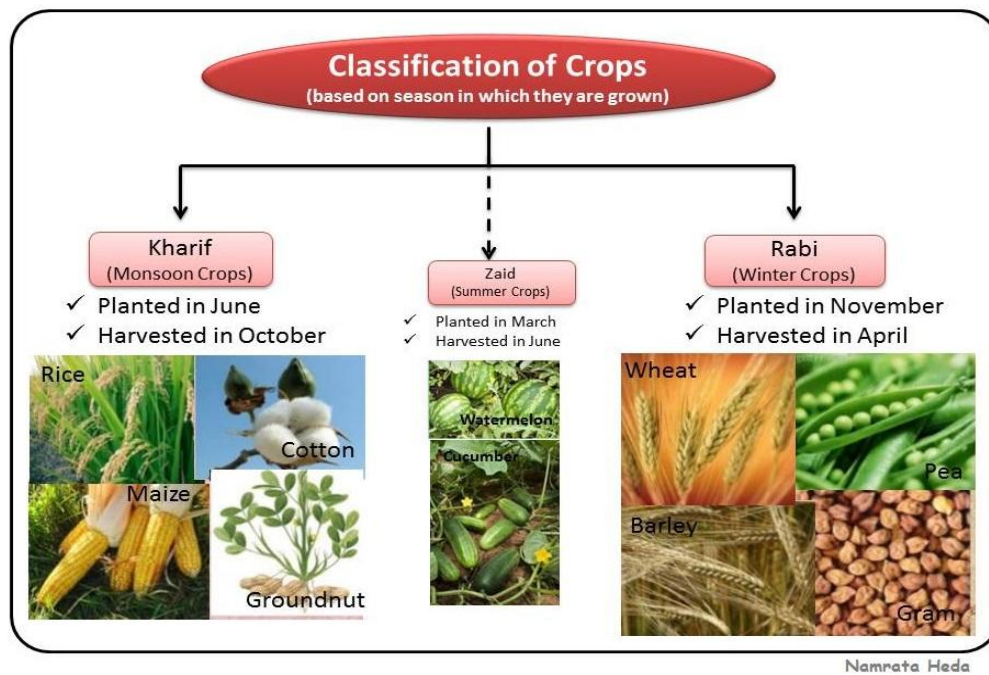
- The standards, based on European regulations were first introduced in 2000.

Bharat Stage	Year of implementation
Bharat Stage (BS) III	Since October 2010
Bharat Stage IV	In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010 It has been enforced for entire country since April 2017
BS-V	In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms
BS-VI	By 2020.

Marginal hike in MSP for 14 kharif crops

- The Centre has hiked the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by less than 4% to ₹1,815 per quintal for the 2019-20 season. The ₹65 per quintal increase is much lower than last year's hike of ₹200 per quintal, but it will ensure that the MSP remains exactly 50% above the cost of production, not including land costs.

Classification of crops based on the season:



Cropping Seasons in India		
Cropping Seasons	Major crops cultivated	
	Northern States	Southern States
Kharif Season June–September	Rice, Cotton, Bajra, Maize, Jowar, Tur	Rice, Ragi, Maize, Jowar, Groundnut
Rabi Season October–March	Wheat, Gram, Rapeseeds, Mustard, Barley	Rice, Maize, Ragi, Groundnut, Jowar
Zaid Season April–June	Vegetables, Fruits, Fodder	Rice, Vegetables, Fodder

Cattle traders move SC against 2017 rules

- An association of cattle traders and transporters has approached the Supreme Court against rules notified in 2017, which are being used to seize and forfeit their cattle.

Livelihood worries

*The petition concerns
The Prevention of Cruelty
to Animals (Care and
Maintenance of Case
Property Animals) Rules, 2017
notified on May 23, 2017*



- The rules were framed in pursuance of the powers granted by Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

- The petitioner challenged the validity of the rules on the following grounds:

- i. Rule 3, 5 (1) to (8), 7, 8 (1) and (2) and 9 are ultra-vires Sections 29 and 35 of the parent Act

- ii. The rules have not been passed by Parliament as required under Section 38A of the 1960 Act

- Alternatively, the petitioner sought a direction that the rules, having been withdrawn by the Centre, ought not to be implemented

What is prevention of cruelty to animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) rule 2017?

- The central government has notified the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules, 2017. The new rules have been formulated under the PCA Act of 1960.
- These rules aim to ensure the welfare of the animals in the cattle market.
- The specific provisions of the new rules apply only to animals which are bought and sold in the notified live stock markets and animals that are seized as case properties, and not on other animals.
- They create two committees-

- First is the District Animal Market Monitoring Committee for registration of animal market
- Second is the Animal Market Committee at the local authority level for management of the markets.
- The new rules advocate the trade of only healthy animals for agricultural purpose from the livestock market.
- They envisage to protect the animals from cruelty and not to regulate the existing trade in cattle for slaughter houses.

Article-48 of the Indian constitution states that “State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and should ensure steps for preserving and improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle”.

Article 51A, the Constitution places a duty on every citizen to “protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures.

The new rules have been framed to fulfil these.

Provision to read Supreme Court verdicts in your language

- In a novel measure, the Supreme Court will translate its judgments into all vernacular languages for the benefit of the public and litigants across the length and breadth of the country.
- The move is the brainchild of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi.
- To begin with, judgements will be translated into *six vernacular languages*: **Assamese, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Odia and Telugu.**

Madras HC orders land acquisition by Tamil Nadu government since Sept. 2013 illegal as illegal

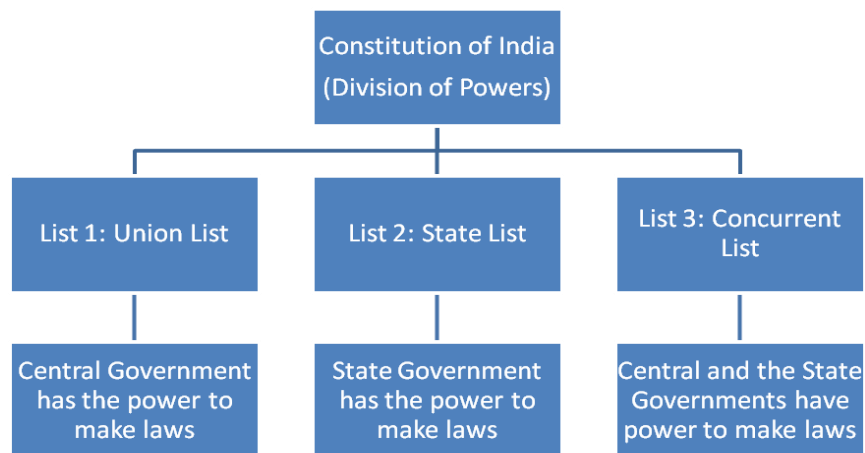
- In a significant ruling, the Madras High Court declared that all land acquisitions made since September 27, 2013 as illegal under three legislations
- Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Act of **1997**
- The Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Harijan Welfare Scheme Act of **1978**
- Tamil Nadu Highways Act of **2001**.
- The court ordered as “unconstitutional” the amendment made to the central government act — *Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (central govt.), 2013* — by enacting a state law — *Right to Fair Compensation and Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Tamil nadu) Act, 2014*.

NOTTO opens a direct channel with State hospitals

- The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has been writing directly to hospitals in Tamil Nadu seeking live transplant data and details of transplant coordinators.
- While the State has written to NOTTO asking it to send emails only through the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (Transtan), experts view this as a sign of “growing interference” by the Central organization into the State’s domain even though T.N. has not implemented the amended Transplantation of Human Organs Act and Rules.

‘Illegal act’

- J. Amalorpavanathan, former membersecretary, Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu said, “This act of a Central organisation writing directly to individual hospitals bypassing the T.N. government is not just improper, it is illegal. Health is a State subject and the Centre should get all data only from the State government and not bypass it.



Seventh Schedule

- Division of powers between the Union and the States in terms of List I (Union List), List II (State List) and List III (Concurrent List). Presently, the Union List contains 100 subjects (originally 97), the state list contains 61 subjects (originally 66) and the concurrent list contains 52 subjects (originally 47).

Article 249: Power of Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List in the national interest

Article 35: It should be noted that Article 35 extends the competence of the Parliament to make a law on the matters specified above, even

though some of those matters may fall within the sphere of the state legislatures (i.e., State List).

Parliament's Authority Over State List

- Even in the limited sphere of authority allotted to them, the states do not have exclusive control. The Parliament is empowered to legislate on any subject of the State List if **Rajya Sabha** passes a resolution to that effect in the national interest. This means that the legislative competence of the Parliament can be extended without amending the Constitution. Notably, this can be done when there is no emergency of any kind.

Union list:

- The Union List contains 100 subjects (originally 97). Even now, the last entry is numbered as 97 but the total number of entries is 100. The entries numbered as 2A, 92A, 92B and 92C have been added and entry 33 has been omitted.
 - 2A. Deployment of any armed force of the Union in any state in aid of the civil power
 - 92A. Taxes on the sale or purchase of goods other than newspapers, where such sale or purchase takes place in the course of inter-state trade or commerce
 - 92B. Taxes on the consignment of goods in the course of inter-state trade or commerce
 - 92C. Taxes on services

Sixth Amendment Act, 1956

- Included a new subject in the Union list i.e., taxes on the sale and purchase of goods in the course of interstate trade and commerce and restricted the state's power in this regard.

Forty-Second Amendment Act, 1976:

- (The most Comprehensive amendment made so far to the Constitution; it is known as ‘Mini- Constitution’; it gave effect to the recommendations of *Swaran Singh Committee*

Swaran Singh Committee

- Shifted five subjects *from the state list to the concurrent list*, viz, education, forests, protection of wild animals and birds, weights and measures and administration of justice, constitution and organization of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.

78% beedi rollers seen suffering from serious ailments like cancer and tuberculosis

- About 78% beedi rollers, who were surveyed by the Cancer Institute in Adyar, were found to suffer from one ailment or the other — cancer, tuberculosis, respiratory disorders, chronic cold and cough, gynaecological problems or skin diseases.

High risk, low reward

A survey of 500 beedi rollers in pockets of Vellore and Tirunelveli districts found:

- A majority of them — 64.7% — were in the age group of 26 to 45 years
- They were predominantly women — 92.6%
- 73% of them spent one to eight hours a day rolling beedis, 27% worked for 9 to 16 hours
- Rolling more than 1,000 beedis fetched them a wage varying from ₹130 to ₹150
- Not just the worker but the family members were also involved in rolling beedis
- 80.4% are willing to shift to a viable alternative livelihood, 19.6% said no



- 78% suffered from one ailment or the other
- Ailments included cancer, tuberculosis, respiratory and lung diseases, chronic cold and cough and gynaecological disorders

- In fact, 80.4% of the workers were willing to switch to an alternative livelihood.

Why research institute for tobacco?

- Tobacco is an important commercial crop grown in India.
- It occupies the third position in the world with an annual production of about 800 Million Kgs.

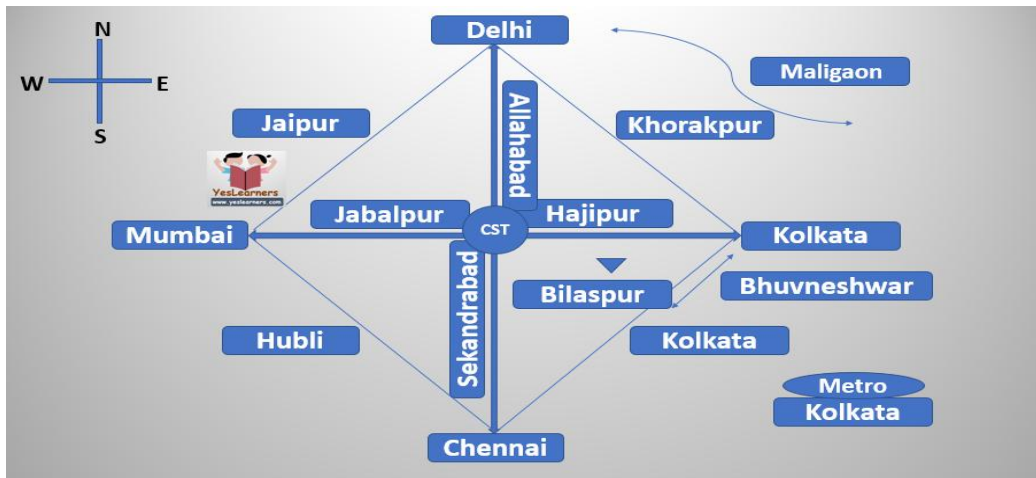
WHY Central Tobacco Research Institute in Andhra Pradesh?



- The Indian Central Tobacco Committee (ICTC) established Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) in Rajamahendravaram (Andhra Pradesh) in 1947. The Institute was under the administrative control of ICTC, Madras from 1947 to 1965 and subsequently transferred to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi.
- In AP, Tobacco is cultivated widely in districts of East & West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur Districts.
- The growth of Tobacco depends on type of soil. The most suitable and economically viable soil is Regur or common name - Black Soil.

- The Northern Black Soils and Central Black Soils are the reason for the good tobacco growth in AP.

SCR constructs longest electrified tunnel



- The South Central Railway (SCR) has added another feather to its cap by commissioning the longest electrified tunnel in Indian Railways.
- The tunnel, measuring 6.6 km, is situated between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations and is part of the 113km new railway line completed recently between Obulavaripalli– Venkatachalam– Krishnapatnam Port.
- The tunnel, an engineering marvel, is a pride for SCR zone.

List of Railway zones in India

The 18 zones and the 68 divisions are listed below.

The **South Coast Railway Zone** (SCoR) is a new Indian railway zone, headquartered at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. South Coast Railway zone is the newest zone in India. (announced in the year 2019)

Northern Railway	Delhi
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North Eastern Railway	Gorakhpur
Northeast Frontier Railway	Guwahati
Eastern Railway	Kolkata
South Eastern Railway	Kolkata
South Central Railway	Secunderabad(Hyderabad)
Southern Railway	Chennai
Central Railway	Mumbai
Western Railway	Mumbai
South Western Railway	Hubballi
North Western Railway	Jaipur
West Central Railway	Jabalpur
North Central Railway	Allahabad

South East Central Railway	Bilaspur
East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
East Central Railway	Hajipur
South Coast Railway	Visakhapatnam
Kolkata Metro Railway	Kolkata

IMF approves \$6 billion loan for Pakistan

- The International Monetary Fund Executive Board approved a \$6 billion, three-year loan for Pakistan to try to right the nation's economy.

What is IMF?



Fast Facts About the IMF

1944

Year the IMF was established

\$1 trillion

Total amount the IMF is able to lend to its member countries

189

Member countries

36

Current lending arrangements

147

Nationalities represented by staff

0%

Interest rate on loans to low-income countries

24

Executive Directors representing 189 member countries

\$303 million

For hands-on technical advice, policy-oriented training, and peer learning

Indian suppliers of U.S. tech to Huawei warned

- Indian entities that will supply U.S.-origin technology components to Chinese telecom major Huawei may face penal action under American regulations
- The Department of Commerce, USA, had added Huawei Technologies to the entity list on May 16, 2019, by amending the U.S. Export Administration Regulations.
- Huawei's inclusion in the entity list implies that U.S. companies require prior export licence for sale of any equipment/software/technology to Huawei.
- The U.S. government has directed its companies, including Google, not to supply software and hardware to Huawei, alleging security risk from the company.
- Huawei has teamed up with Vodafone, Idea to conduct 5G trials in India.

South Americans marvel at solar eclipse

- A rare total solar eclipse plunged a vast swath of Latin America's southern cone into Darkness
- People in large numbers flocked to Chile's Coquimbo region to witness the moment
- The eclipse had its longest duration as it made to La Silla: 2.36 minutes.
- Solar eclipses happen when the Sun, the moon and earth line up, allowing the moon to cast its shadow on earth. The area where the observatory is located, with its dry weather, crystalclear air and low light pollution, is the perfect spot for such spectacles.

What is an Eclipses?

- An eclipse is a complete or partial obscuration of light from a celestial body and it passes through the shadow of another celestial body. The eclipses are of two types. They are: **A) Solar Eclipse (b) Lunar Eclipse**

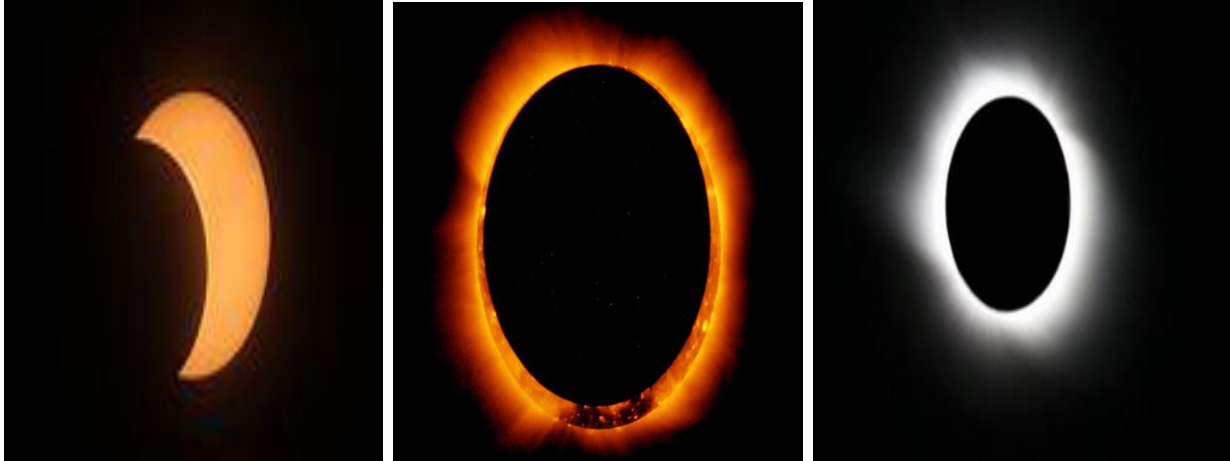
what is solar eclips?

- It occurs on New Moon days when the moon is between the Sun and the Earth.
- Thus, it obscures a part of the Sun viewed from the Earth, but only from a small area of the world. It lasts only for a few minutes.

A partial solar eclipse?

- A partial solar eclipse happens when the moon partially covers the disc of the sun. Partial solar eclipses. i.e., A partial solar eclipse occurs when only the **penumbra** (the partial shadow) passes over you.

- In these cases, a part of the sun always remains in view during the eclipse. How much of the sun remains in view depends on the specific circumstances.



(partial solar eclipse) (annular solar eclipse) (Total solar eclipses)

An annular solar eclipse?

- An annular solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes centrally across the solar disc i.e., An annular solar eclipse happens when the Moon covers the Sun's center, leaving the Sun's visible outer edges to form a “ring of fire” or **annulus** around the Moon.

Total solar eclipses

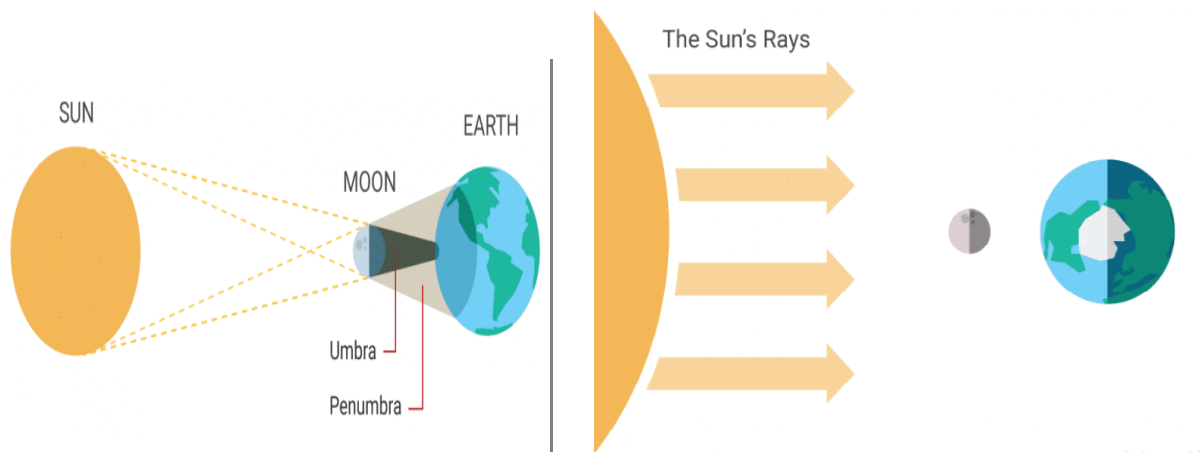
- Occur when the New Moon comes between the Sun and Earth and casts the darkest part of its shadow, the umbra, on Earth. A full solar eclipse, known as totality, is almost as dark as night.
- Only those located in the path of the Moon's full shadow, its umbra, can see a total solar eclipse. The Moon's umbra travels eastward at about 1,700 km/h (1,056 mph).
- A total solar eclipse can last for several hours. Totality can range from a few seconds to 7.5 minutes. The longest total solar eclipse of

the 21st century took place on July 22, 2009 when the totality lasted 6 minutes and 39 seconds.

- During a total eclipse of the Sun, the Moon covers the entire disk of the Sun. In partial and annular solar eclipses, the Moon blocks only part of the Sun.

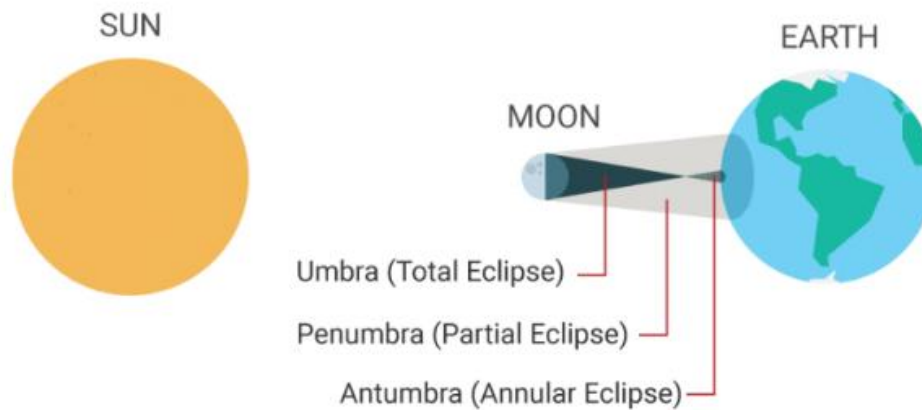
What is New Moon (the Invisible Phase)?

In modern astronomy, the New Moon is when the Sun and Moon are aligned, with the Sun and Earth on opposite sides of the Moon.



- Only those located in the path of the Moon's full shadow, its umbra, can see a total solar eclipse. The Moon's umbra travels eastward at about 1,700 km/h (1,056 mph).
- A total solar eclipse can last for several hours. Totality can range from a few seconds to 7.5 minutes. The longest total solar eclipse of the 21st century took place on July 22, 2009 when the totality lasted 6 minutes and 39 seconds.

Umbra, Penumbra, and Antumbra: Why Are There 3 Shadows?



- If the Moon's shadow falls on Earth, we get to see a solar eclipse; the Earth's shadow falling on the Moon results in a lunar eclipse. However, there are different types of solar and lunar eclipses. A solar eclipse may be total, partial, or annular; a lunar eclipse may be total, partial, or penumbral.
- The type of eclipse we experience depends on the type of shadow that is involved. Both the Moon and Earth cast 3 shadows:
 - 1) an umbra,
 - 2) a penumbra,
 - 3) an antumbra.
- The umbra is the shadow's dark center portion, while the penumbra and the antumbra are different types of half-shadows.

Umbra Eclipses

The umbral shadow can produce the following eclipses:

- Total solar eclipse – the Moon's umbra falls on the Earth's surface, and the observer is within the umbra.

- Total lunar eclipse – the Earth's umbra completely covers the Moon.
- Partial lunar eclipse – the Earth's umbra covers only part of the Moon.

Penumbra Eclipses

The penumbral shadow is involved in these eclipses:

- Partial solar eclipse – the Moon's penumbra falls on the Earth's surface, and the observer is within the penumbra.
- Partial lunar eclipse – the Earth's penumbra covers the area of the Moon's visible surface that is not covered by the umbra.
- Penumbral lunar eclipse – the penumbra covers all or part of the Moon, the umbra misses it.

Antumbra Eclipses

The antumbral shadow can only cause 1 type of eclipse:

- Annular solar eclipse – the Moon's antumbra falls on the Earth's surface, and the observer is within the antumbra.

27% of children with disabilities have never been to school: UNESCO

- More than one in four children with disabilities between ages 5 and 19 in India have never attended any educational institution, while three-fourths of five year olds with disabilities are not in school.
- A report by UNESCO and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences recommends structural, funding and attitudinal changes to ensure that no child is left out of the right to education.

Right to Education Article 21 A

- Article-21A declares that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of *six to fourteen years* in such a manner as the State may determine.
- And in the case of girls and members of the SCs and STs until they complete the *age of eighteen years*.
- Thus, this provision makes *only elementary education a Fundamental Right* and not higher or professional education.
- This provision was added by the *86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002*.
- Even before this amendment, the Constitution contained a provision for free and compulsory education for children *under Article 45 in Part IV*. However, being a directive principle, it was not enforceable by the courts. Now, there is scope for judicial intervention in this regard.

86th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002.

- This amendment is a major milestone in the country's aim to achieve 'Education for All'. The government described this step as 'the dawn of the second revolution in the chapter of citizens' rights'.
- This amendment changed the subject matter of Article 45 in directive principles. It now reads—
- 'The state shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.'
- It also added a new fundamental duty under **Article 51A** that reads —'It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years'.

Fundamental Right to primary education in the right to life under Article 21

- In 1993 itself, the Supreme Court recognised a Fundamental Right to primary education in the right to life under Article 21. It held that every child or citizen of this country has a right to free education until he completes the age of 14 years. Thereafter, his right to education is subject to the limits of economic capacity and development of the state.
- In this judgement, the Court overruled its earlier judgement (1992) which declared that there was a fundamental right to education up to any level including professional education like medicine and engineering.

Israeli company withdraws beer with Gandhi photo

- An Israeli company that stoked controversy by putting the image of Mahatma Gandhi on its liquor bottles to commemorate Israel's 71st Independence Day on Wednesday apologised for hurting Indian sentiments.
- "Malka Beer offers its heartfelt apologies to the people and the Government of India for hurting their sentiments,"



- Mahatma Gandhi was the only non-Israeli face on the limited edition bottles that included three former Israeli Prime Ministers and the father of Zionism — David BenGurion, Golda Meir and Menachem Begin Theodor Herzl (the father of Zionism).

Urja Mitra not very prompt in relaying power cut information

What is urja mitra?

- The Urja Mitra project initiated by the Ministry of Power to standardise and inform consumers in advance of both scheduled and unscheduled power cuts remains a mixed bag of sorts.



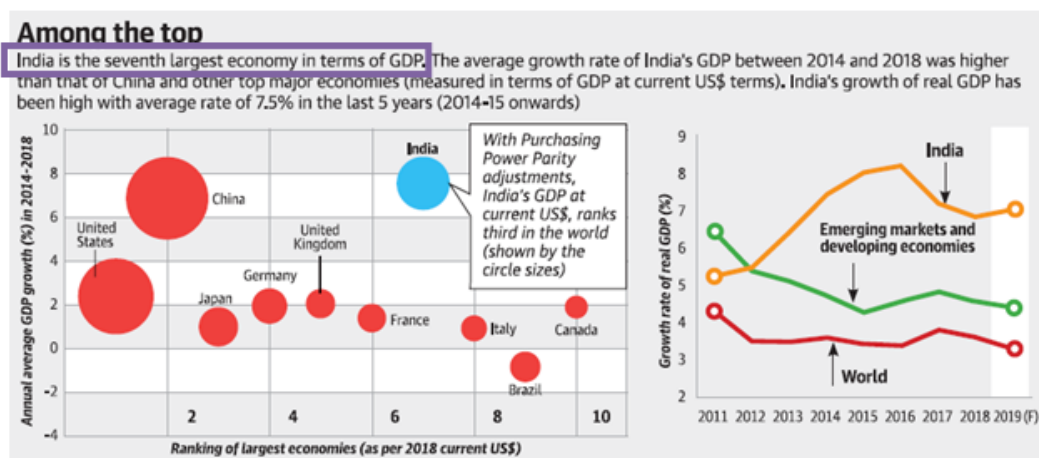
Quacquarelli Symonds ranking for 2020

- The QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) ranking for 2020 has placed Anna University among the top 50 young institutions in the world.
- It is the only State-run university to be among the 'under 50' category.
- The other two institutions ranked ahead of it are the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Jindal University.

What is the QS World University Rankings?

- The QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings which comprises the global overall and subject rankings (which name the world's top universities for the study of 48 different subjects and five composite faculty areas), alongside our independent regional tables (such as Asia, Latin America, Emerging Europe and Central Asia and the Arab Region). The QS World University Rankings is the most-widely read university rankings in the world.

Economic Survey sets out blueprint for \$5 tn economy



- The Economic Survey 2019 presented by Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Krishnamurthy Subramanian focusses on moving to a “virtuous cycle” of savings, investments and exports to transform India into a \$5 trillion economy in the next five years.
- Projects GDP growth for 2019-20 at 7%, an improvement from last fiscal's pace of 6.8%.
- India is the seventh largest economy in terms of GDP.

Gujarat, T.N. to get wind energy plants with expertise from EU

- Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to India Tomasz Kozlowski, said India's first major off-shore wind energy power plant would be set up soon in Gujarat with the cooperation of EU nations and private companies.
- The Indian government's plan is very ambitious. By **2022**, India wants to have a capacity of **5 giga byte of off_shore wind energy** in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu," said Mr. Kozlowski, while adding that Tamil Nadu has resources for tapping off_shore wind energy.

Namma Auto

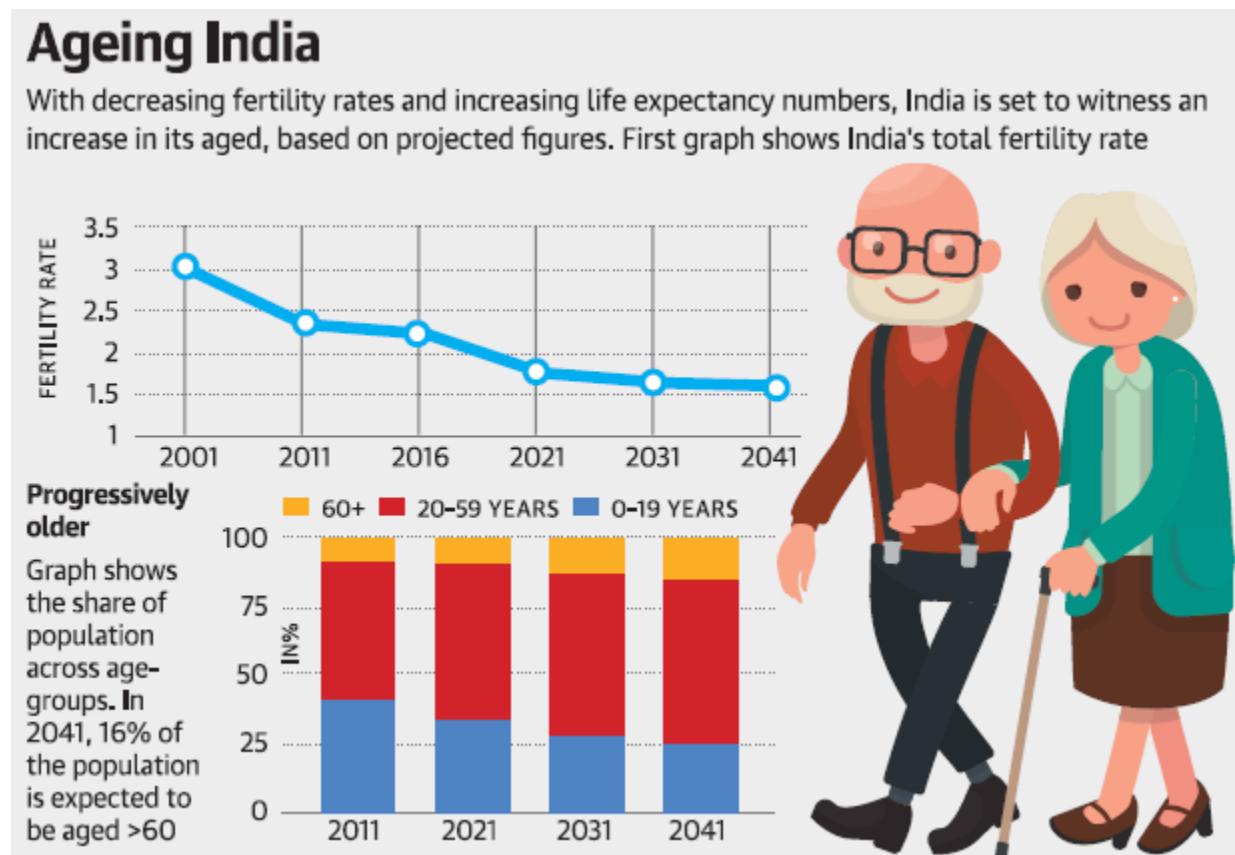
- The EU Ambassador showcased the environment friendly, EU funded Electric rickshaw 'Namma Auto' by riding it.
- The 'Namma auto project' was launched early in this year to promote the shift to less polluting auto rickshaws in **Bengaluru and Chennai**.



Green ride: Tomasz Kozlowski during the launch of the electric 'Namma Auto' in Chennai. ■R. RAGU

Greying India must delay retirement

- Survey says the elderly population is expected to nearly double from 8.6% in 2011 to 16% by 2041
- India may have to raise the retirement age as the country sees a rapid increase in the size of the elderly population over the next two decades due to the slowing down of the population growth rate, according to the Economic Survey 2018-19.
- The total fertility rate of 2.1 is called the replacement level fertility below which populations begin to decline.



- It is forecast that the population rate will grow less than 1% from 2021 to 2031 and under 0.5% from 2031 to 2041. This is primarily due to the fall in the total fertility rate (TFR), which is projected to

decline between 2021-2041 and fall below replacement level fertility at 1.8 as early as 2021.

What is Total Fertility Rate (TFR)?

- The term "total fertility rate" describes the total number of children the average women in a population is likely to have based on current birth rates throughout her life.
- The number ranges from more than six children per woman in developing countries in Africa to around one child per woman in Eastern European and highly developed Asian countries.

What is Replacement Rate?

- The concept of replacement rate is associated with total fertility rate. The replacement rate is the number of children each woman needs to have to maintain current population levels, or what is known as zero population growth, for her and the father.
- In developed countries, the necessary replacement rate is about 2.1. Since replacement cannot occur if a child does not grow to maturity and have their own offspring, the need for the extra 0.1 child (a 5 percent buffer) per woman is due to the potential for death and factors in those who choose or are unable to have children. In less developed countries, the replacement rate is around 2.3 because of higher childhood and adult death rates.

The Economic Survey calls for streamlining the minimum wage system

- A well designed and streamlined minimum wage system is required to reduce wage inequality in the country.

- The survey stated, domestic workers were covered under minimum wage laws in only 18 States and Union Territories.
- Apart from increasing the ambit of the minimum wage system, it recommended deciding minimum wages on the basis of skills and split across geographical regions.
- Currently, the minimum wage system, under ***the Minimum Wages Act, 1948***, in India is complex, with 1,915 different minimum wages defined for different job categories across States, the survey said.
- International Labour Organisation says that, “One in every three wage workers in India is not protected by the minimum wage law”.

What is the need of minimum wage system?

- It would bring uniformity and make States “almost equally attractive from the point of view of labour cost for investment as well”.

BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS – July 6, 2019

GST cut on electric vehicles in union Budget 2019



- GST on electric vehicles cut to 5%.
- Additional income tax deduction of Rs. 1.5 lakh on interest on loans taken to buy electric vehicles (EV).

- Accordingly, the buyer of an EV will get a total benefit of ₹2.5 lakh over the purchase period.
- The loan is required to be taken on or before March 31, 2023.
- Electric vehicles are expected to be nearly twice the cost of the comparable ICE (Internal combustion engine) vehicle.

Liquidity arrangements for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)

- NonBanking Financial Companies are playing an extremely important role in sustaining consumption demand as well as capital formation in small and medium industrial segment
- NBFCs that are fundamentally sound should continue to get funding from banks and mutual funds without being unduly risk averse.
- Keeping this in mind, Ms. Sitharaman announced that the government would provide a **onetime partial credit guarantee to public sector banks** for their first loss of **up to 10%** when they purchased the pooled assets of financially sound NBFCs.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her maiden Budget announced a slew of measures to ease the liquidity and regulatory problems affecting the Nonbanking Financial Company (NBFC) sector.
- **lowering the corporate tax rate** for companies with an **annual turnover of less than ₹400 crore** and increasing the surcharge to be paid by high net worth individuals earning more than Rs. 2 crore a year.
- Government sources said the surcharge would fetch around Rs. 12,000 crore and would off-set the loss of Rs. 4,000 crore from the slashing of corporate tax.

- It also finally provided relief for startups from the undue pain of the **'angel tax'**.

WHAT IS ANGEL TAX?

- Angel tax is a term used to refer to the income tax payable on capital raised by unlisted companies via issue of shares where the share price is seen in excess of the fair market value of the shares sold. The excess realisation is treated as income and taxed accordingly. The tax was introduced in the 2012 Union Budget by then finance minister Pranab Mukherjee to arrest laundering of funds. It has come to be called angel tax since it largely impacts angel investments.

Union budget 2019 kicked off iconic brief case and halwa ceremony

- Speaker Om Birla praised Ms. Sitharaman for presenting the Budget as the **country's first fulltime woman** Finance minister.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman replaced the conventional leather briefcase with **a bright red cloth bag** to carry the Budget papers to the Parliament House.
- Ahead of presenting the budget in parliament, the finance minister did not pose with the iconic briefcase, like her predecessors.
- In a departure from tradition, she was seen holding **a bright red cloth bag** folder enclosed with a string and emblazoned with the national emblem, which was described by officials as the "**bahi khata**"(ledger).
- Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian said the Budget briefcase had been replaced by the traditional bahi khata in keeping with Indian tradition.
- Earlier, Nirmala Sitharaman, India's first full-time finance minister, ditched another tradition. During the customary halwa ceremony

before the Budget Session, she untied the red ribbon instead of cutting it; officials said she believed cutting a ribbon is not considered auspicious.

History of Indian Finance minister

- Indira Gandhi was the first woman to present a Budget in 1970, when she was the Prime Minister.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is the second woman to present Union Budget after Indira Gandhi, who presented Budget 1970-71 when she was the prime minister.
- Indira Gandhi was the prime minister **who held finance portfolio** with her.
- Nirmala Sitharaman is different in that sense. **She presents the Union Budget** solely as Union Minister for Finance.
- Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi were the only other prime ministers who presented Union Budget.
- Nirmala Sitharaman's first budget is similar to the first Budget of Independent India. In 1947, two budgets were presented. First budget was presented in March. It was for United India that included today's Pakistan as well as Bangladesh. But Partition happened in August making the March Budget inoperative even though expenditures were authorised.
- The Jawaharlal Nehru government felt that a new budget was required as this could be a wish of the newly independent people.
- **RK Shanmukham Cherry**, the first finance minister of Independent India, was tasked to present New India's Budget for the period of 15 August 1947 to 31 March 1948. Cherry could, however, present his Budget on 26 November 1947.

List of union finance ministers from Tamil nadu:

<p>Mr.R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (the First Finance Minister of Independent India)</p>	
<p>Mr.T. T. Krishnamachari (4th Finance Minister of India from 1957 to 13th February 1958)</p>	
<p>Mr.Chidambaram Subramaniam (the 10th Finance Minister of India)</p>	
<p>Mr.R. Venkataraman (the 14th Finance Minister of India)</p>	
<p>Mr.P. Chidambaram (the 24st Finance Minister of India)</p>	
<p>Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman (28th finance minister)</p>	

Policies in union budget 2019 to encourage women-led-initiatives instead of women-centric one:

- The first Budget of the second Modi government appeared to be of a continuum of the last with an emphasis on social welfare and announced setting up of a committee to assess budgetary allocation.
- The Minister said that every verified member of a Self Help Group(SHG) possessing a Jan Dhan Bank account would be given ₹5,000 over and above their savings
- At least one woman per SHG would be eligible for a loan of up to ₹1 lakh under MUDRA scheme.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's citation from Urdu poet Manzoor Hashmi to tamil poet Puranaanuru in her meidan budget.

- While speaking in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman quoted Urdu poet Manzoor Hashmi, Chankaya, Swami Vivekananda and Lord Basaveshwara's couplets and teachings in the House.
- **Starting her maiden** Budget speech, she recited a Hashmi's couplet,

Couplet from Urdu poet Manzoor Hashmi	Meaning
"Yakeen ho toh koi rasta nikalta hai, hawa ki to kar bhi chiraag jalta hai"	You find ways somehow if you have faith. The lamp burns bright even in gushing wind

- She made the reference to “Chanakya Neeti ” while speaking of India's target of becoming a **\$5 trillion economy** in the next few years. She quoted

Chanakya Neeti	Meaning
Kaarya purusha kare na lakshyam sampadayate	with determined human efforts, the task will surely be completed

- Giving stress on the significance of **women empowerment**, the Minister cited one of the quotes of Swami Vivekananda.

Swami Vivekananda's sayings
"There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one wing."

- She invoked 12th-century social reformer and thinker Lord Basaveshwara's principles and said, "Our government recognizes and follows the teachings of Lord Basaveshwara, who first established the concept of 'Kalyana Rajya' (**welfare state**).

Preaching's of Lord Basaveshwara
'Kayakave Kailasa'." (work is worship)

- While speaking on **taxation**, Sitharaman also quoted Sangam era Tamil classic's **Yaanaai Pugundha Nilam** written by Pisirandhayar **in Puranaanuru**.

- Earlier only former finance minister p. Chidambaram was heard using tamil during 2013 budget session.
- The Finance Minister added that the advice given to Paandiyar Arivudaiyanambi is "valuable advice that this government appreciates. An elephant if it is given mounds of rice, here I refer to taxation, will be quite happy. It doesn't have to enter the field to trample. So we don't intend to trample anybody.

Union budget towards infrastructure push

- There was a lot of stress on infrastructure development, including tax relief for affordable housing, with a proposed tax holiday for developers of affordable housing and an additional deduction of up to ₹1.5 lakh for interest on home loans borrowed up to **March 31, 2020**.
- Announcements of targets for the construction of **1.95 crore houses** under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)**
- An allocation of ₹80,250 crore for the upgrade of **rural roads** under the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** were also made.
- To expand swachh bharat mission to undertake **solid waste management in all villages**
- **RBI** to be the regulatory authority for the **housing finance sector**.

Govt. slaps 10% customs duty on newsprint

- The government on Friday imposed 10% import duty on newsprint and 5% import duty on printed books. There was no import duty on newsprint so far.

- “To encourage domestic publishing and printing industry, 5% custom duty is being imposed on imported books,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said while presenting the Union Budget for 2019-20 in the Parliament.
- Under this, printed books including covers for printed books and printed manuals, will attract duty.

Slew of steps to boost digital payments

- To promote digital payments further, finance minister to take a slew of measures.
- To discourage the practice of making business payments in cash, I propose to levy **TDS of 2% on cash withdrawal exceeding ₹1 crore in a year** from a bank account.
- Businesses with an annual turnover of over ₹_50 crore can offer these payment options and no charges or Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) would be imposed on them or their customers.

Zero Budget for farmers; no drought relief

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman repeated policy initiatives such as the online national agriculture market eNAM, 10,000 new farmer producer organizations, PM-KISAN, PM-AASHA and a back to the basics approach with “zero Budget”, or organic farming in her meidan budget 2012-2020.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

- It is an initiative by the government of India in which 120 million small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares of landholding will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support.

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM AASHA)

- PM Aasha is pro-farmer initiative which aims to ensure MSP for agricultural produce and compensate losses of farmers.
- PM AASHA Scheme includes Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Pilot of Private Procurement and Stocklist Scheme (PPSS).
- *Price Support Scheme (PSS)* – Central Nodal Agencies along with State govt. will make physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra. Govt. will bear procurement expenditure and losses caused due to procurement upto 25% of total production
- *Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)* – All oilseeds for which MSP has been notified would get covered under PDPS. Farmers will be able to get direct payment of difference between MSP and Selling Price
- *Pilot of Private Procurement and Stocklist Scheme (PPSS)* – This scheme will involve participation of private sectors in procurement operation to be piloted. In case of oilseeds, states have a choice to roll out PM AASHA Scheme on a pilot basis in certain selected districts.

Making a pitch for PPP model in Railways

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed a capital expenditure of ₹1,60,175.64 crore for the Railway Ministry for 201920 in Budget 201920. This is the Highestever allocation for the national transporter, surpassing last year's ₹1,48,528 crore.

- Saying the Railways network will require an investment of about ₹50 lakh crore till 2030, the Minister pitched for the *public-private partnership (PPP)* model to achieve faster development.
- It is estimated that railway Infrastructure would need an investment of ₹50 lakh crore between 2018 and 2030. Given that the capital expenditure outlays of the Railways are around ₹1.5 to ₹1.6 lakh crores per annum, completing even all sanctioned projects would take decades. It is therefore proposed to use Public Private Partnership to unleash faster development and completion of tracks, rolling stock manufacturing and delivery of passenger freight services.

Interlinking of highways

- The government has proposed to restructure the National Highways programme to ensure interlinking of highways through a grid.
- Under the first phase of Bharatmala, a total of 34,800 km of road has been approved for development from 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 at a total outlay of ₹5,35,000 crore.
- The FM said in phase2 of the Bharatmala scheme, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will assist State governments to develop State Highways.
- **What is Bharatmala scheme?**
- Bharatmala Pariyojana is a centrally-sponsored and funded road and highways project of the Government of India announced on 31-july-2015
- The ambitious umbrella programme will subsume all existing highway projects including the flagship National Highways Development Project (NHDP).
- **What is National Highways Authority of India?**

- National Highways Authority of India was set up by an act of the Parliament, *NHAI Act, 1988* “An Act to provide for the constitution of an Authority for the development, maintenance and management of national highways and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Inland waterways for moving cargo

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her meidan budget stressed the need to enhance portled development through the Sagarmala scheme and develop inland waterways to use rivers for cargo movement to decongest road and rail networks, reduce the cost of transportation as well as cut oil import bill.
- The net allocation for Sagarmala schemes has gone up from ₹381 crore to ₹550 crore, an increase of 44%. The contribution to the Inland Water Transport Authority of India, too, went up from ₹384.95 crore in the last fiscal to ₹450 crore, a 17% increase.

What is sagarmala scheme?

- The concept of Sagarmala was approved by the Union Cabinet on *25th March 2015*
- For promoting port-led industrialization, 14 Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) covering all the Maritime States and Union Territories have been dentified under National Perspective Plan of Sagarmala Programme.
- Vision of the Sagarmala Programme is to reduce logistics cost for EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.

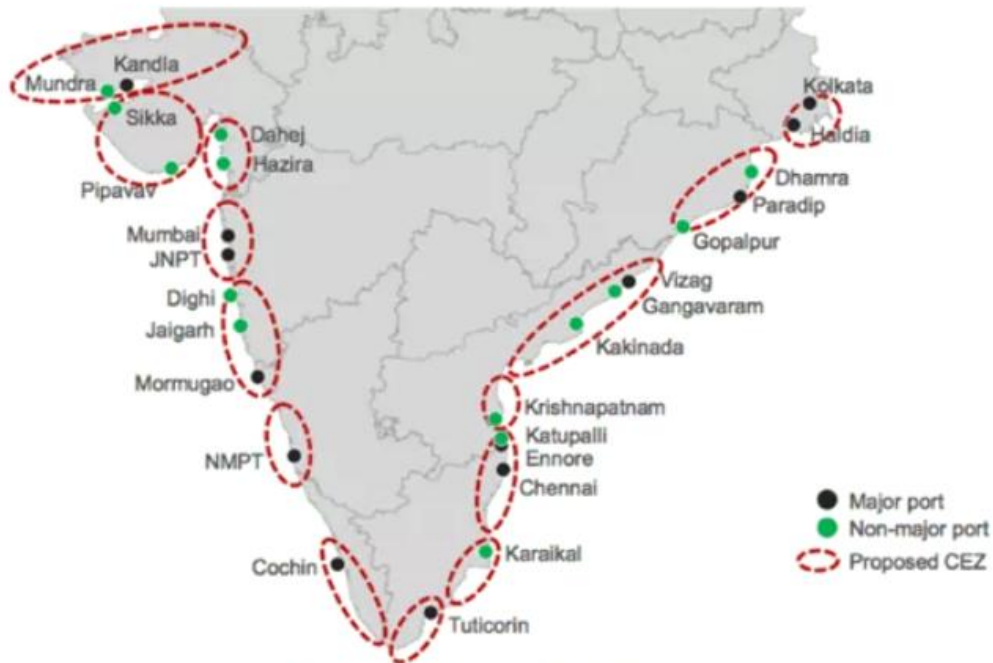


Image of Major Port, Non-major Port and Proposed CEZ

No specific funds for Jal Jeevan Mission in union budget

- To fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of piped water supply to all rural households by 2024, the new Jal Jeevan Mission which has no budget allocation of its own will need to converge with other Central and State government schemes, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.
- The ongoing *Jal Shakti Abhiyan*, a water conservation campaign in 256 waterstressed districts also has no separate allocation

Gandhipedia to sensitise society

- A "Gandhipedia" is being developed in order to sensitise society, particularly the *youth*, about Gandhian values, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget 2019-2020 speech on Friday.
- With the government marking the *150th birth anniversary of Gandhi* with several programmes throughout the year, an encyclopedialike "Gandhipedia" would be among the efforts to spread his values.

- A Gandhipedia is being developed by *National Council for Science Museums* (MINISTRY OF CULTURE) to sensitise youth.

Defence industrial production corridors to be set up in our country

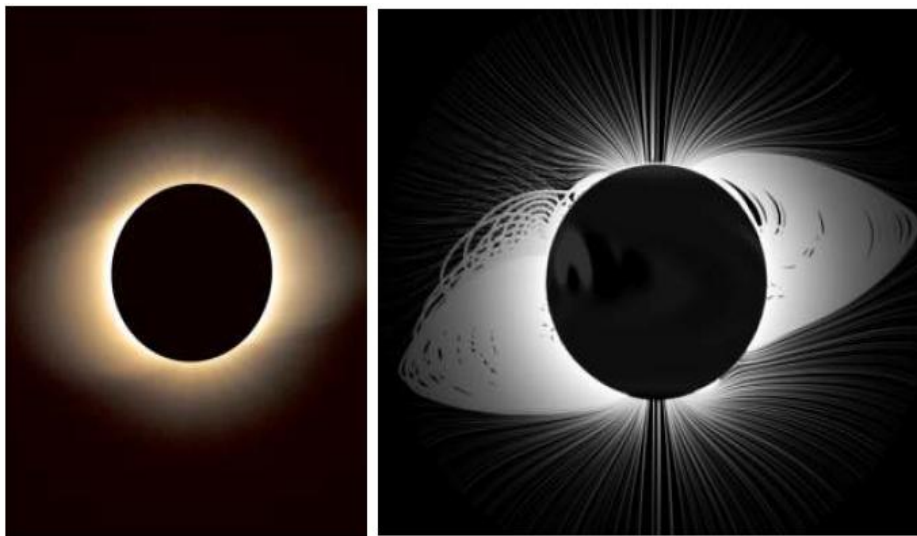
- Defence industrial production corridors will be built in
 - *Uttar Pradesh and*
 - *Tamil Nadu.*
- The government of Tamil Nadu launched a defence industrial corridor in the state on 20 January 2019. Defence products were unveiled, at the launch of the defence innovation hub in Coimbatore.

BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS – July 7, 2019

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata team predicted the shape of the Sun's atmosphere at the time of the eclipse using a two-step model

- Scientists from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata were in for a pleasant surprise as the total solar eclipse on July 2 proved their prediction correct in its major features.
- Their aim was to check whether their prediction of the shape of the corona
- The corona can only be viewed during a total solar eclipse.
- The total solar eclipse occurred on 2-july-2019 was visible only within a narrow strip of land stretching over **Chile and Argentina.**
- Dibyendu Nandi's group, from IISER Kolkata, had used a two-step model to predict

- First the shape of the solar magnetic field on the day of the eclipse
- Second extrapolate it to describe what the corona would look like.
- IISER predictions of two cross equatorial streamers, or bright petal like structures the Sun's Corona were confirmed by the observations.
- The model built up by the IISER Kolkata team can be used to predict space weather. It will also be useful in analyzing data from the proposed Indian space mission **AdityaL1** - *which is meant to study the Sun's corona.*



Spot on: The team's prediction (right panel) of two bright petal like structures in the Sun's corona were confirmed by the observations of the eclipsed Sun (left panel). •DURGESH TRIPATHI AND CESSI

What is Aditya L1?

- *Aditya - L1 First Indian mission to study the Sun*
- The Aditya-1 mission was conceived as a 400kg class satellite carrying one payload, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) and was planned to launch in a 800 km low earth orbit.

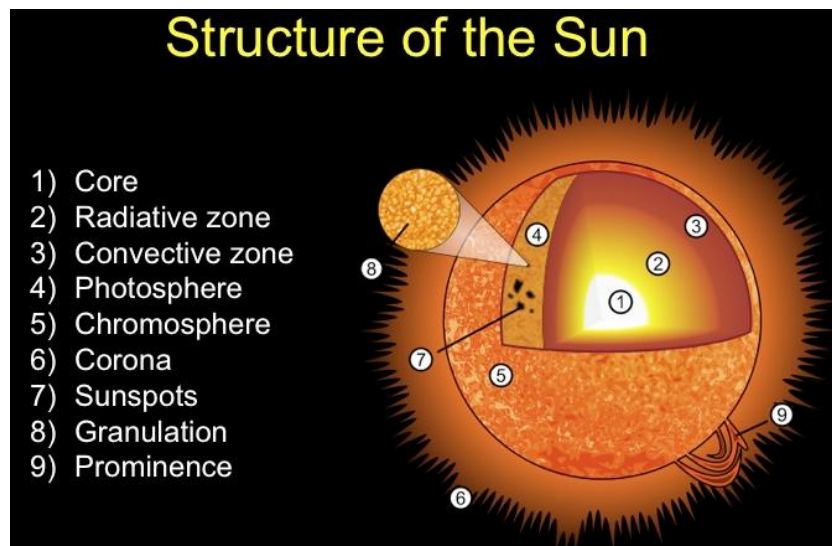
- A Satellite placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation/ eclipses.
- Therefore, the Aditya-1 mission has now been revised to “Aditya-L1 mission” and will be inserted in a halo orbit around the L1, which is 1.5 million km from the Earth.

The Sun

- It is a *yellow dwarf star*, with a hot ball of glowing gases.
- Electric currents in the Sun generate a magnetic field that is carried out through the solar system by the solar wind.

Structure of the Sun

- By mass, the Sun is made up of about 70.6% hydrogen and 27.4% helium.
- There are three main layers in the Sun's interior:
 1. The core
 2. The radiative zone
 3. The convective zone



- **The core:** is at the centre. It is the hottest region, where the *nuclear fusion* reaction to give the sun power.

- **Radiative (or radiation) zone:** Its name is derived from the way energy is carried outward through this layer, carried by photons as thermal radiation.
- **The solar interior** is named the convective (or **convection**) **zone**. It is also named after the dominant mode of energy flow in this layer.
- **Photosphere:** The boundary between the Sun's interior and the solar atmosphere is called the photosphere. It is what we see as the visible 'surface' of the Sun.
- **The chromospheres:** The lower region of the solar atmosphere is called the chromosphere. Its name is derived from the Greek word chroma (meaning colour), for it appears bright red when viewed during a solar eclipse.
- **The corona:** The uppermost portion of the Sun's atmosphere is called the corona, and is surprisingly much hotter than the Sun's surface (photosphere). The upper corona gradually turns into the solar wind. Solar wind is a flow of plasma that moves outward through our solar system into interstellar space.
- **The temperature of the sun's surface:** is about 5,500 to 6,000 degrees Celsius.
- **At the core, the temperature:** is about 15 million degrees Celsius, which is sufficient to sustain thermonuclear fusion. This is a process in which atoms combine to form larger atoms and in this process, released, staggering amounts of energy. Specifically, in the Sun's core, hydrogen atoms fuse to make helium.

U.S. State records its most powerful earthquake since 1999

- A magnitude 7.1 earthquake shook Southern California.

- The quake struck at about 8.20 p.m. near the town of Ridgecrest south of Death Valley National Park, about 202 km northeast of Los Angeles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Earthquake:

- Earthquake is a sudden shaking of the earth's surface. Earthquake results from the sudden release of pressure which has slowly built up within the earth's crust. Energy is released in the form of shockwaves known as seismic waves. The seismic waves can broadly be classified into two types namely Body waves and surface waves.

Focus: is the location inside the earth where the earthquake originates.

Epicenter: is the point on the earth's surface vertically above the focus of an earthquake.

Body Waves: are the waves that travel through the interior of the earth.

They are further divided into the following.

1. P or Primary or Compressional waves
2. S or Secondary or Shear waves

P or Primary or Compressional waves:

- The fastest seismic waves (6 km/ sec. in the upper crust).
- They cause the matter to oscillate forward and backward, parallel to the motion of the seismic wave front.
- P waves push (compress) and pull (dilate) the rock that they pass through.
- They pass through all medium.

S or Secondary or Shear waves

- This wave is slower than the primary waves (3.5 km/sec. in the upper crust). They cause matter to oscillate side to side, perpendicular to the motion of the wave front.

- S waves shear the rock that they pass through.
- They pass through *only solid medium*.

Surface Waves: are the waves that travel along the earth's surface. They are slower than body waves. They cause damage during earthquakes.

Love waves: shake the ground side to side like S wave.

Rayleigh waves: displace the ground like rolling ocean waves. The ground rolls forward and up and then down and backwards. This is similar to a p wave but with the extra up-down motion.

Measuring the earthquake

- **Earthquake magnitude:** is measured on the Richter scale (named after the seismologist who devised it), which rates them on a scale of 1 to 10.
- **Earthquake intensity:** is measured on the modified Mercalli scale, which from 1 to 12, depending upon the intensity.
- **The seismograph:** is an instrument used to detect and record seismic created by the earthquakes.