



**Civil's IAS**  
Empowering Nation

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# Weekly Current Affairs Compilations

A holistic magazine for UPSC Prelims, Mains and Interview Preparation

## Volume 27

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### **1. GS FOUNDATION [PRELIMS cum MAINS]**

- a. LECTURE - 15 hours / week: 10 hours (Static Subjects) + 5 hours (Current Affairs)
- b. All NCERTs / Reference Books / Materials will be provided from academy free of cost.
- c. Weekly MCQs and ANSWER WRITING Tests
- d. 24 x 7 AC Library facilities
- e. Weekly Performance Report of students.
- f. Revision Lecture before Prelims and Mains exam
- g. Personal mentorship to students

### **2. CURRENT AFFAIRS Module [PRELIMS cum MAINS]**

- a. Current Affairs lecture - 5 hours / week
- b. Weekly Current Affairs compilations and Monthly Yojana Magazine will be provided from academy free of cost.
- c. MCQs and ANSWER WRITING Tests based on Current Affairs
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### **3. DAILY MAINS ANSWER WRITING (Online / Offline)**

- a. Total 16 Questions and 1 Essay per Week
- b. Model Answers / Essay will be provided to students
- c. Evaluation by Faculty only
- d. One to one interaction with students

### **4. NCERT based TEST SERIES (Online / Offline)**

- a. MCQs and Answer Writing tests based on NCERT 6 - 12<sup>th</sup> Standards

### **5. PRELIMS 2020 TEST SERIES (Online / Offline)**

- a. Total 21 Tests (13 SUBJECTWISE + 5 GS FULL LENGTH + 4 CSAT)

### **6. MAINS 2020 TEST SERIES (Online / Offline)**

### **7. MOCK INTERVIEW**

- a. Interview and one to one Feedback session with experienced panels.
- b. Recorded CDs of the same will be provided to students

### **8. GS MAINS - MARKS ENHANCEMENT SERIES [MES]**

- a. Coverage of General Studies 1,2,3,4 and ESSAY topics to boost students marks in Mains examination.

### **9. OPTIONAL**

- a. Geography
- b. Gujarati Literature
- c. Anthropology
- d. Political Science
- e. Sociology
- f. Philosophy

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### **MAINS TOPICS (Handwritten Notes)**

1. CORRUPTION
2. CRIMINALISATION OF POLITICS

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### **FACTS for ANSWER WRITING**

- FACT 1. TAXATION
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- FACT 5. MNREGA
- FACT 6. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- FACT 7. STARTUP ECOSYSTEM
- FACT 8. DEATH PENALTY
- FACT 9. GLOBAL TALENT COMPETITIVE INDEX
- FACT 10. APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE

### **MODEL ANSWER**

1. UNIFORM CIVIL CODE



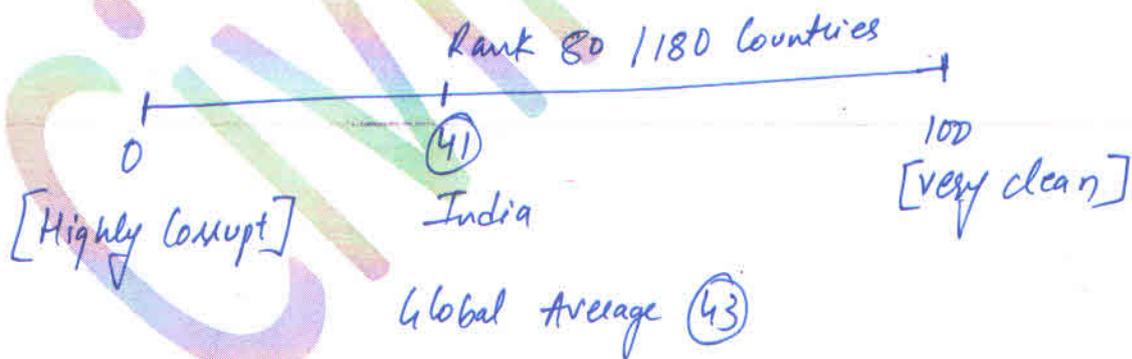
## Corruption

- Recent Development
- What is Corruption?
- Harm / Effects
- Cause
- Solution

### Recent Developments

⇒ Corruption perception Index, 2019

↳ Transparency International





Corruption

→ To deliberately and intentionally exploit one's position, status or resources directly or Indirectly for personal benefits.

→ Enhancement of power, prestige, Influence ~~by~~ beyond what is legally sanctioned or commonly accepted norms. which is detrimental to other person interests.

⇒ Corruption definition according to "prevention of Corruption Act, 1988"

↳ Bribe

↳ not working according to rules / Constitution

↳ Abuse of authority - harm  
- favours

↳ obstruction of Justice

↳ wasting public money

→ not working in efficient manner  
→ manipulating rules  
→ working for personal interests.



## Harm of Corruption

- Under mine economic growth → quality of graduate → no benefit of govt schemes
- Low Investment productivity
- Inequality - Injustice
- Erosion of government legitimacy / Credibility
- political Instability → Resentment, Riots → Destabilization
- people / Citizen acceptance of corruption as way of life.
- ↓ in morality and destruction of Individual Character
- inefficiency in administration  
↳ expectation of bribe
- Black money
- Substandard work / goods / service - Adulteration
- distortion of Competition
- Robbing public exchequer
- Tax evasion
- violation of safety norms



Cause

- Law not as deterrent
  - ↳ low probability of getting caught
  - ↳ Time taking Judicial process
- Rising ~~asp~~ aspirations / Low Salary
  - ↳ Materialism
  - ↳ not able to fulfill basic needs
- Scarcity
- Change in value System - grabbing attitude  
- self centred
- ~~too~~ Lack of vigilance
- Laws / Rules not transparent - Excessive  
- Complicated
- Lack of time
- political patronage
- opaque Bureaucracy and discretionary power
- Government monopoly
- Desire to pay lower Tax ~~than~~ than demanded fees



- High Share of Informal Sector
- Economic Inequalities
- Lack of Ease of doing Business

- Use of Black money during elections
- Crony Capitalism
- Criminalization of politics

**Economic**

**Political**



**Social & Ethical**

**Administrative**

- politicization of Bureaucracy
- Colonial Bureaucracy
- failed administrative Reforms
- low wage of govt servant and lack of Career growth opportunities
- Judicial failure - delay, pendency
- lack of effective grievance redress mechanism

- Increasing Individualization and materialism
- Social discrimination
- failure of education system to impart values

Solution

- Manage Conflicts of Interest
  - ↳ Better Regulation
  - ↳ cooling off period for former officials
- Control political financing
- Strengthening Electoral Integrity
  - ↳ free & fair election
- Regulate Lobbying activities
- Tackle preferential treatment
- Empower Citizens
- Reinforce Checks and Balance



## Criminalisation of politics

- facts
- why Criminal enter politics?
- How Criminal enter politics?
- How Criminal affect system?
- Prevention

### Facts

→ 2019 LS elections

Year	% with Criminal cases	% with Serious Criminal cases
2009	30%	14%
2014	34%	21%
2019	43%	29%

$$\frac{234}{543}$$

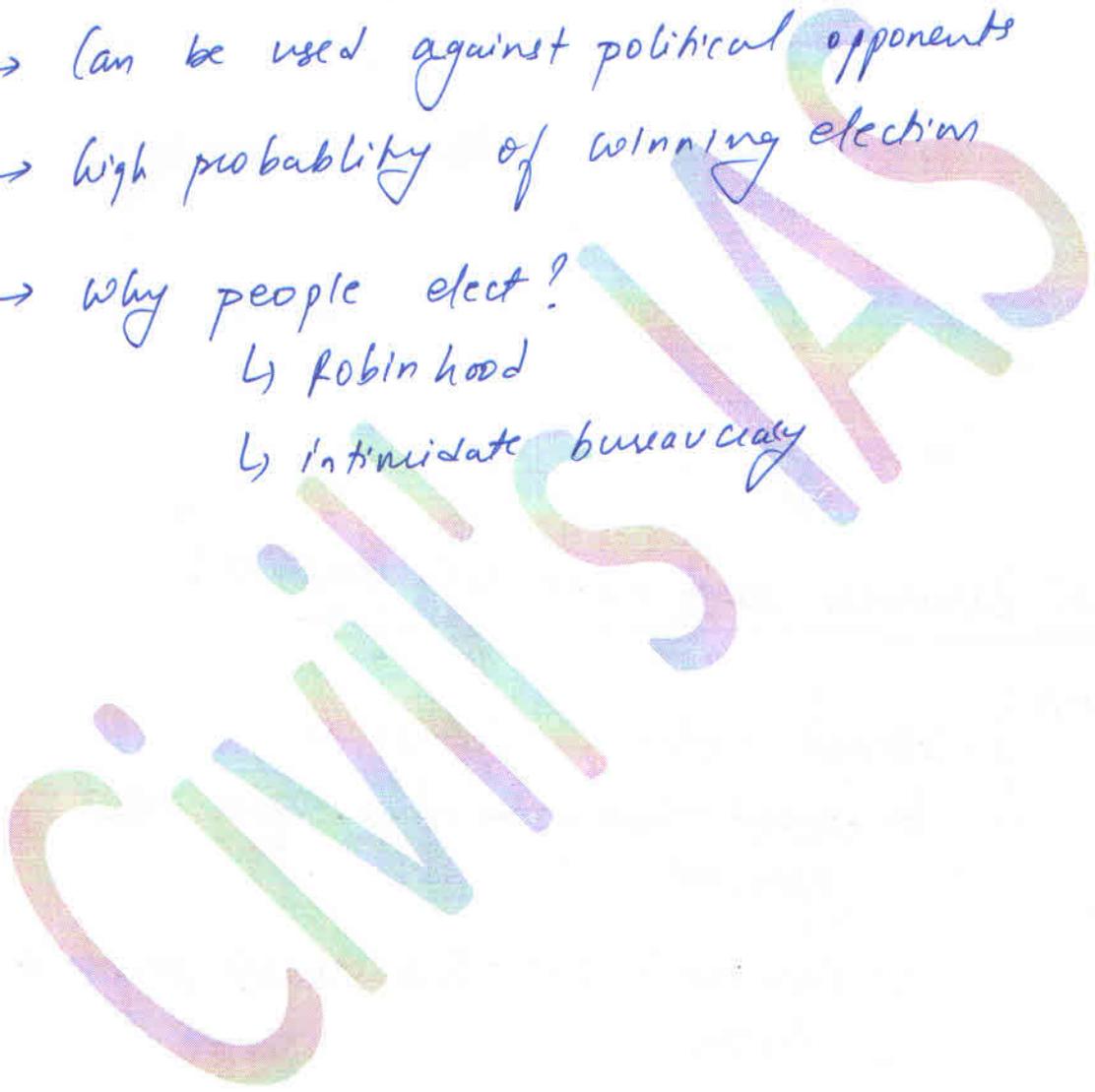
→ 0.5% Conviction Rate

Rape, murder, kidnapping  
 Crime against women etc



Why political parties give tickets to criminals?

- Strong Network - arrange crowd
- provide funding to party
- Can be used against political opponents
- High probability of winning elections
- Why people elect?
  - ↳ Robber hood
  - ↳ Intimidate bureaucracy





⇒ Why Criminals enter our political system?

↳ Convert their illegal acts into legal one  
- gain legitimacy.

⇒ How Criminals enter into politics?

→ Earlier

↳ politician patronize criminals

↳ protect them from law enforcement agencies

↳ criminals use their muscle power in election

→ present

↳ criminals taking reins of power and patronizing politicians and political parties.



⇒ How Criminals affect our system?

- misuse of govt resources and manpower
- victimization of victims
- no impartial investigation against them
- Breakdown of morality in society
- erosion of trust in public institutions
- poor quality of law formulated
- Result Result in Criminalization of Administration
  - ↳ Inaction
  - ↳ collusion
  - ↳ supportwith criminals
- ↳ Nexus between politicians  
dishonest officers  
Criminals.



⇒ How to avoid Criminals entry?

→ political parties should not give tickets

→ Ammending RPA to include Undertial  
↳ Representation of people Act, 1950  
1951

→ fast track Court for increased Conviction

→ Aware Citizens.

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# PRELIMS and MAINS TOPICS

## TOPIC 1. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

- India's ranking in Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI-2019) has slipped from 78 to 80 compared to the previous year.
- Its score of 41 out of 100 remains the same.
- In democracies such as India and Australia, **unfair and opaque political financing, undue influence in decision-making and lobbying by powerful corporate interest groups** have resulted in stagnation or a decline in the control of corruption.
- The report has revealed that a majority of countries are showing little to no improvement in tackling corruption. **"Our analysis also shows corruption is more pervasive in countries where big money can flow freely into electoral campaigns and where governments listen only to the voices of wealthy or well-connected individuals,"** Transparency International said.
- The 2019 CPI draws on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories, giving each a score from zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- In **Asia Pacific region**, the average score is 45, after many consecutive years of an average score of 44, which "illustrates general stagnation" in the region.
- China** has improved its position from 87 to 80 with a score of 41 out of 100, a two-point jump.
- "Despite the presence of high performers like New Zealand (87), Singapore (85), Australia (77), Hong Kong (76) and Japan (73), Asia Pacific region hasn't witnessed substantial progress in anti-corruption efforts or results. In addition, low performers like Afghanistan (16), North Korea (17) and Cambodia (20) continue to highlight serious challenges in the region,".
- According to Transparency International, while often seen as an engine of global economy, in terms of political integrity and governance, region performs only marginally better than global average. **"Many countries see economic openness as a way forward, however, governments across the region, from China to Cambodia to Vietnam, continue to restrict participation in public affairs, silence dissenting voices and keep decision-making out of public scrutiny,"**.
- Given these issues, it comes as no surprise that vibrant economic powers like China (41), Indonesia (40), Vietnam (37), Philippines (34) and others continue to struggle to tackle corruption.
- The top ranked countries are New Zealand and Denmark, with scores of 87 each, followed by Finland (86), Singapore (85), Sweden (85) and Switzerland (85).

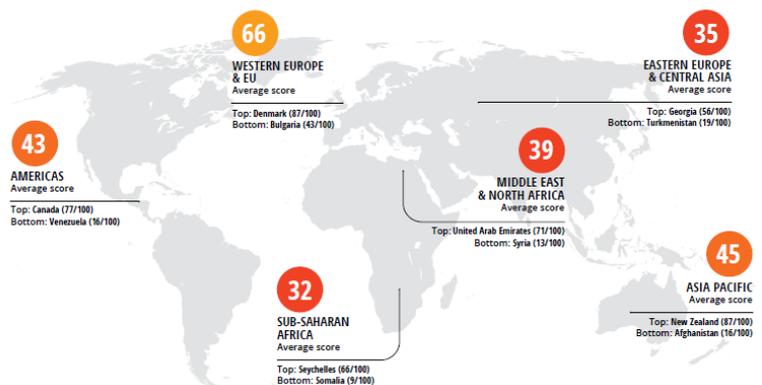
### Status check

The Corruption Perceptions Index uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average for 2019 is 43

Country	Score in 2019	Rank in 2019	Change in rank from '18
Denmark	87	1	0
New Zealand	87	1	1
U.K.	77	12	-1
U.S.	69	23	-1
India	41	80	-2
China	41	80	7
Brazil	35	106	-1
Pakistan	32	120	-3
Russia	28	137	1
Bangladesh	26	146	3
Somalia	9	180	0

### RESULTS BY REGION

Average regional scores, with top and bottom performers in each region.



WORLD

**MOST CLEAN**

COUNTRY	RANK	SCORE
Denmark	1	87
New Zealand	1	87
Finland	3	86
Singapore	4	85
Sweden	4	85
Switzerland	4	85
Norway	7	84
Netherlands	8	82

**MOST CORRUPT**

COUNTRY	RANK	SCORE
Afghanistan	173	16
Equatorial Guinea	173	16
Sudan	173	16
Venezuela	173	16
Yemen	177	15
Syria	178	13
South Sudan	179	12
Somalia	180	9

**INDIA IN LAST 5 YEARS**

Index Year	Rank	Score	Countries Surveyed
2012	94	36	174
2013	94	36	175
2014	85	38	174
2015	76	38	167
2016	79	40	176
2017	81	40	180
2018	78	41	180
2019	80	41	180

**INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD**

COUNTRY	RANK	SCORE
India	80	41
China	80	41
Pakistan	120	32
Bangladesh	146	26
Sri Lanka	93	38
Nepal	113	34
Myanmar	130	29

# State of corruption

In 2019, India slipped two places to the 80th rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The index, which ranks 180 countries on their perceived level of public sector corruption, is published annually by Transparency International. The index uses a scale of zero (high corruption) to 100 (low corruption). India's score in 2019 (41) was lower than the global average of 43. By **Naresh Singaravelu** and **Srravya C**

**1. India since 2014**

In the last six years, India registered marginal progress: the corruption perception score increased by 3 points and its rank improved by 5 places

Year	CPI score	Global rank
2019	41	80
2018	41	78
2017	40	81
2016	40	79
2015	38	76
2014	38	85

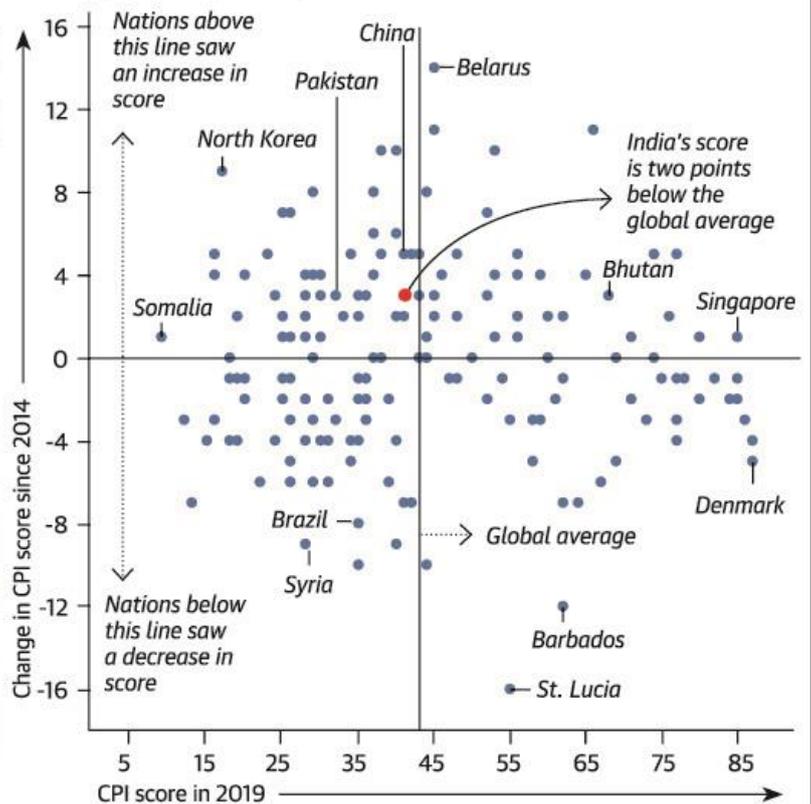
**3. Comparable countries**

Among neighbours and BRICS nations, only Bhutan and South Africa had better scores than India in 2019, while China recorded the same score. Among these nations, Brazil recorded the biggest fall in score since 2014, while Afghanistan had the lowest score in 2019

Country	Score in 2019	Change since 2014
Bhutan	68	3
South Africa	44	0
China	41	5
India	41	3
Sri Lanka	38	0
Brazil	35	-8
Nepal	34	5
Pakistan	32	3
Myanmar	29	8
Russia	28	1
Bangladesh	26	1
Afghanistan	16	4

**2. Tracking improvement**

On the CPI score, 41 countries showed better improvement than India since 2014. The graph depicts the CPI score in 2019 against the change in score since 2014. Each circle corresponds to a country



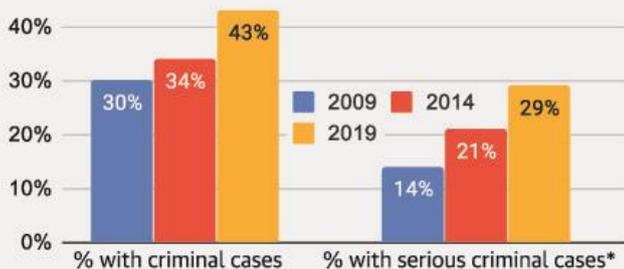
Source: Transparency International

## TOPIC 2. CRIMINALISATION OF POLITICS

1. The Supreme Court on agreed to examine a proposition made by Election Commission (EC) to ask **political parties to not give ticket to those with criminal antecedents.**
2. Appearing before a Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman, senior advocate Vikas Singh said **46% of Members of Parliament have criminal records.**
3. Supreme Court's long string of judgments against criminalization of politics had hardly scratched surface of deep rot.
4. The Bench, also comprising Justice Ravindra S. Bhat, asked Mr. Singh and petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay's lawyer, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, to put their heads together and come up with a joint proposal detailing how it can be ensured that parties did not fall in with criminal politicians.
5. Justice Nariman, speaking for the Bench, said just a move **to steer politics away from the denizens of the criminal world would definitely serve national and public interest.**
6. The top court gave the two senior lawyers a week's time to come up with their proposal.
7. Mr. Singh said Commission had tried several measures to curb criminalisation of politics, but to no avail. Mr. Upadhyay had filed a contempt petition seeking action against the authorities and parties for not complying fully with a **September 2018 judgment of a Constitution Bench, which had directed political parties to publish online the pending criminal cases against their candidates.**
8. The judgment had urged **Parliament to bring a "strong law" to cleanse political parties of leaders facing trial for serious crimes.**
9. The ruling by a five-judge Bench led by then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra concluded that **rapid criminalisation of politics cannot be arrested by merely disqualifying tainted legislators but should begin by "cleansing" the political parties.**

### Under the scanner

Close to **43% winners** of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls have criminal cases against them, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms



\* rape, murder, kidnapping, crimes against women, etc

### Grounds for disqualification

Why the Supreme Court did not introduce a new template for disqualifying/banning candidates/sitting MPs/MLAs against whom a trial court has framed charges of heinous crimes

The Legislature, in the Representation of the People Act of 1951, is "absolutely specific" on the grounds to disqualify. These grounds are:

**SECTION 8:** Conviction for certain offences

**SECTION 8A:** Corrupt practices

**SECTION 9:** Dismissal for corruption or disloyalty

**SECTION 9A:** When there is subsisting contract between the person and the government

**SECTION 10:** Disqualification for office under

government company  
**SECTION 10A:** Failure to lodge account of election expenses

Apart from these disqualifications, there are no other disqualifications and, as is noticeable, there can be no other ground  
— CJI DIPAK MISRA



## TOPIC 3. EEL SPECIES

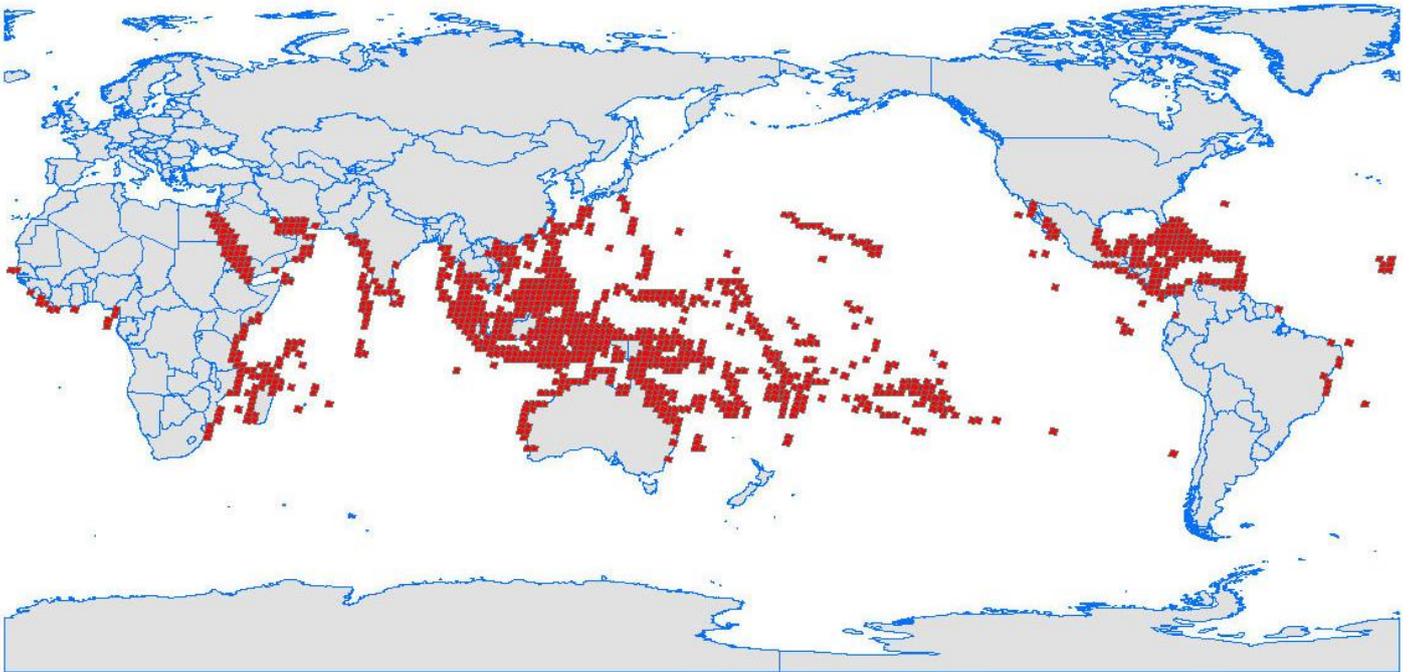
1. A new snake eel species residing in Bay of Bengal has been discovered and documented in January by Estuarine Biology Regional Centre (EBRC) of **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** at Gopalpur-on-sea in Odisha.
2. This new marine species has been named **Ophichthus kailashchandrai** to honour the vast contributions of Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director of ZSI, to Indian animal taxonomy.
3. *Ophichthus kailashchandrai* is 8<sup>th</sup> species of **Ophichthus genus** found on Indian coast.
4. It is 5<sup>th</sup> new species discovered by Gopalpur ZSI in last 2 years.
5. In 2019, 2 new species of marine eel, **Gymnothorax andamanensis** and **Gymnothorax smithi** were been discovered by this ZSI centre.



## TOPIC 4. CORAL REEFS

1. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with help from Gujarat's Forest Department is attempting for 1<sup>st</sup> time a process to restore coral reefs using **biorock or mineral accretion technology**. A biorock structure was installed one nautical mile off Mithapur coast in Gulf of Kutch.
2. ***Biorock is the name given to the substance formed by electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures that are lowered onto the sea bed and are connected to a power source in this case solar panels that float on the surface.***
  - a. "The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through electrodes in water,"
  - b. "When a positively charged anode and negatively charged cathode are placed on sea floor, with an electric current flowing between them, calcium ions combine with carbonate ions and adhere to structure (cathode). This results in calcium carbonate formation. Coral larvae adhere to the CaCO<sub>3</sub> and grow quickly,"
  - c. fragments of broken corals are tied to biorock structure, where they are able to grow at least 4 to 6 times faster than their actual growth as they need not spend their energy in building their own calcium carbonate skeletons.
3. location for installing biorock had been chosen keeping in mind high tidal amplitude in **Gulf of Kutch**.
4. The low tide depth where biorock has been installed is 4 metres and at high tide it is about 8 metres.
5. Throwing light on degradation of coral reefs across world and also in India, threats were posed both by **climate change-induced acidification** as well as by anthropogenic factors. Observing that coral reefs were most diverse ecosystem on earth
6. India has 4 major coral reefs areas:
  - a. **ANDAMAN and NICOBAR ISLANDS,**
  - b. **LAKSHADWEEP,**
  - c. **GULF of MANNAR**
  - d. **GULF of KUTCH.**
7. In 2015, same group of ZSI scientists with support of Gujarat Forest Department had successfully restored branching **coral species** (staghorn corals) belonging to family **Acroporidae (Acropora formosa, Acropora humilis, Montipora digitata)** that had gone extinct about 10,000 years ago to Gulf of Kutch. The researchers claimed that specimens for regenerating these corals were brought from Gulf of Mannar with help of Tamil Nadu's Forest Department.
8. ***initiative of coral restoration using biorock technology helps corals, including the highly sensitive branching corals, to counter the threats posed by global warming.***
9. Most coral reefs occur in **shallow water near shore**. As a result, they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of human activities both through direct exploitation of reef resources and through indirect impacts from adjacent human activities on land and in coastal zone. Many of human activities that degrade coral reefs are inextricably woven into social, cultural and economic fabric of regional coastal communities.
10. **Threats to Coral Reefs**
  - a. **Physical damage** or destruction from coastal development, dredging, quarrying, destructive fishing practices and gear, boat anchors and groundings, and recreational misuse (touching or removing corals).
  - b. **Pollution** that originates on land but finds its way into coastal waters. There are many types and sources of pollution from land-based activities, for example:
  - c. **Sedimentation** from coastal development, urban stormwater runoff, forestry, and agriculture
    - i. Sedimentation has been identified as a primary stressor for existence and recovery of coral species and their habitats.
    - ii. Sediment deposited onto reefs can smother corals and interfere with their ability to feed, grow, and reproduce.
  - d. **Nutrients** (nitrogen and phosphorous) from agricultural and residential fertilizer use, sewage discharges (including wastewater treatment plants and septic systems), and animal waste
    - i. Nutrients are generally recognized as beneficial for marine ecosystems; however, coral reefs are adapted to low nutrient levels; so an excess of nutrients can lead to growth of algae that blocks sunlight and consumes oxygen corals need for respiration. This often results in an imbalance affecting the entire ecosystem.
    - ii. Excess nutrients can also support growth of microorganisms, like bacteria and fungi, that can be pathogenic to corals.

- e. **Pathogens** from inadequately treated sewage, stormwater, and runoff from livestock pens
  - i. Although rare, bacteria and parasites from fecal contamination can cause disease in corals, especially if they are stressed by other environmental conditions.
  - ii. Coral disease occurs in healthy ecosystems, but the input of pathogen-containing pollution can exacerbate the frequency and intensity of disease outbreaks.
- f. **Toxic substances**, including metals, organic chemicals and pesticides found in industrial discharges, sunscreens, urban and agricultural runoff, mining activities, and runoff from landfills
  - i. Pesticides can affect coral reproduction, growth, and other physiological processes.
  - ii. Herbicides, in particular, can affect the symbiotic algae (plants). This can damage their partnership with coral and result in bleaching.
  - iii. Metals, such as mercury and lead, and organic chemicals, such as polychlorobiphenyls (PCBs), oxybenzone and dioxin, are suspected of affecting coral reproduction, growth rate, feeding, and defensive responses.
- g. **Trash and micro-plastics** from improper disposal and stormwater runoff
  - i. Trash such as plastic bags, bottles, and discarded fishing gear (also called marine debris) that makes its way into the sea can snag on corals and block the sunlight needed for photosynthesis or entangle and kill reef organisms and break or damage corals.
  - ii. Degraded plastics and microplastics (e.g., beads in soap) can be consumed by coral, fish, sea turtles, and other reef animals, blocking their digestive tracts and potentially introducing toxics.
- h. **Overfishing** can alter food-web structure and cause cascading effects, such as reducing the numbers of grazing fish that keep corals clean of algal overgrowth.
  - i. Blast fishing (i.e., using explosives to kill fish) can cause physical damage to corals as well.
  - ii. Coral harvesting for the aquarium trade, jewelry, and curios can lead to over-harvesting of specific species, destruction of reef habitat, and reduced biodiversity.
  - iii. The aggregate effects of these stressors can decrease resilience of the reef overall and increase susceptibility to disease and invasive species.
- i. **Invasive species** can create an imbalance in the biological checks and balances of a reef ecosystem.
- j. **Increased ocean temperatures and changing ocean chemistry** are greatest global threats to coral reef ecosystems. These threats are caused by warmer atmospheric temperatures and increasing levels of carbon dioxide in seawater.
  - i. As atmospheric temperatures rise, so do seawater temperatures. This warming causes corals to lose microscopic algae that produce food that corals need, placing stress on the corals.
  - ii. Without this algae coral also lose their coloration—a condition known as coral bleaching—because loss of algae reveals the white color of calcium carbonate structure underlying polyps.
  - iii. Severe or prolonged bleaching can kill coral colonies or leave them more vulnerable to other threats such as infectious disease.
- k. Other climate impacts, such as **sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms and altered ocean circulation patterns** can also affect coral reefs.
- l. **Ocean acidification** refers to a change in ocean chemistry in response to the uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is in equilibrium with that in seawater, so when atmospheric concentrations increase so do oceanic concentrations. Carbon dioxide entering seawater reacts to form carbonic acid causing an increase in acidity.
- m. Each year, ocean absorbs about one-quarter of carbon dioxide emitted from burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas). Since Industrial Revolution ocean acidity has increased by about 30%, a rate that is more than 10 times what has previously occurred for millions of years. Further, ocean acidity levels are expected to increase by an additional 40% above present levels by end of this century.
- n. Increases in ocean acidity (measured by lower pH values) reduce availability of dissolved salts and ions needed by corals to form calcium carbonate structure. Consequently, coral growth and reef growth can be slowed, with some species affected more than others. If acidification becomes severe, coral skeletons can actually dissolve. On a local level, nutrient enrichment due to run-off from human activities on land can also cause increased acidity in coastal waters, exacerbating effects of ocean acidification.

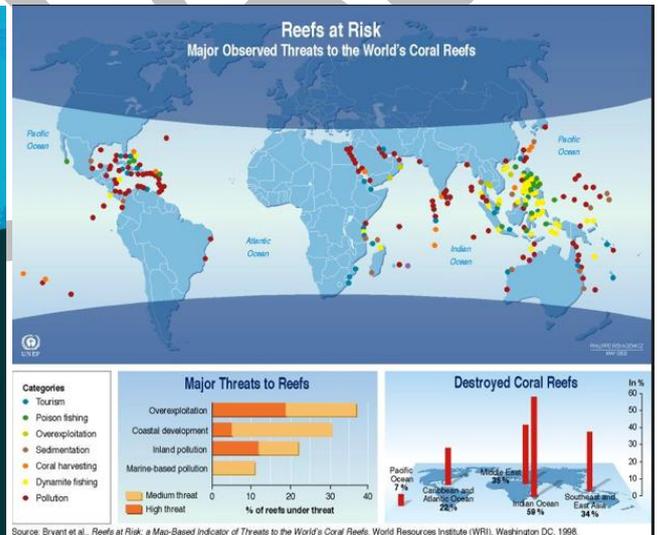


## Coral Triangle Day June 9

**#PLASTIC RESISTANCE**

- 76% of all known coral species
- 6/7 of the world's marine turtle species
- 37% of the world's coral reef fish species
- 130 million people directly dependent on marine natural resources

**CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE**



## TOPIC 5. BAIL

1. **The protection of anticipatory or pre-arrest bail cannot be limited to any time frame or “fixed period” as denial of bail amounts to deprivation of fundamental right to personal liberty in a free and democratic country**, a Constitution Bench of Supreme Court ruled.
2. 5 judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra acknowledged that **anticipatory bail helps thwart influential powers from implicating their rivals in false cases**. **Section 438 (anticipatory bail)** of Code of Criminal Procedure protects people from ignominy of detention in jail for days on end and disgrace to their reputation.
3. SC recorded its amicus curiae and senior advocate Harin Raval’s argument that anticipatory bail is all more needed now because there is an accentuation of political rivalry and “this tendency is showing signs of steady increase”.
4. **“The life or duration of an anticipatory bail order does not normally end at time and stage when accused is summoned by court or when charges are framed but can continue till end of trial”**.
5. The questions referred to Constitution Bench were twofold:
  - a. whether protection granted to a person under Section 438 should be limited to a fixed period till accused surrenders in court and
  - b. whether life of anticipatory bail should end when accused is summoned by court.
6. “History of our Republic and indeed freedom movement has shown how likelihood of arbitrary arrest, indefinite detention and lack of safeguards played an important role in rallying people to demand independence”
7. “The spectre of arbitrary and heavy-handed arrests: too often, to harass and humiliate citizens, and oftentimes, at interest of powerful individuals (and not to further any meaningful investigation into offences) led to enactment of Section 438,”.

- **Regular Bail:** A bail which is granted by the Court to a person after he is arrested.
- **Interim Bail:** A bail for temporary period granted by the Court during the pendency of any application.
- **Anticipatory Bail:** A bail granted to a person, even before arrest, in anticipation that he might get arrested in some days for some criminal offence.
- The anticipatory bail is essential now a day where influential persons involve their opponents, in false and frivolous criminal issues to either damage their image or to get them arrested for some time, to enable them to get their work done.

### The back story of advance bail

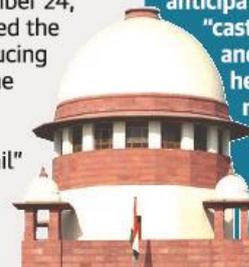
■ The old Cr.PC of 1898 did not contain any specific provision corresponding to the present Section 438. There was a difference of opinion among various HCs whether court had an inherent power to grant pre-arrest bail

■ The Law Commission of India on September 24, 1969, highlighted the need for introducing a provision in the Code enabling courts to grant “anticipatory bail” as an antidote to detention in false cases

■ Clause 447 of the Draft Bill of 1970 was enacted with some modifications and became Section 438 of the Cr.PC, 1973

**A five-judge Supreme Court Bench in the 1980 case of Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia vs. State of Punjab interpreted that the power to grant anticipatory bail is**

**“cast in wide terms and should not be hedged in through narrow judicial interpretation”. It held that courts could impose conditions which were appropriate**



- There is no any necessity that a First Information Report (FIR) is lodged against a person for making an application for anticipatory bail. If a person anticipates that reasonable grounds are exist for his arrest, he can apply for anticipatory bail even before lodging of a FIR.
- A person can also apply for the anticipatory bail even after logging a FIR but before the arrest is made. Once a person is arrested, it is necessary to move an application for regular bail or interim bail as the case may be.
- The application for anticipatory bail can be made to High Court or Session’s Court. Both courts have their jurisdiction and can entertain application for anticipatory bail upon submission of sufficient grounds and facts.

## TOPIC 6. ISRAEL-PALESTINE CRISIS

1. West Asia peace plan unveiled by U.S. President seeks to give Israelis what they have long wanted an expansive state with **Jerusalem as its “undivided capital”** and **tight security control over a future Palestinian state**.
2. With his plan, Mr. Trump is actually pushing to revive stalled 2 -state talks between Israelis and Palestinians, but on his own terms.
3. **What’s the plan?**
  - a. The plan seeks to address most of contentious issues in conflict such as **border of Israel, status of Palestinian refugees, Jewish settlements on West Bank, Israel’s security concerns and status of city of Jerusalem**.
  - b. However, solutions Mr. Trump has proposed to almost all of these issues **favour the Israeli positions**. For example, Israel would be allowed to annex the Jewish settlements on the West Bank as well as the Jordan Valley. The Palestinian refugees, who were forced out from their homes during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that followed the declaration of the state of Israel in the historic Palestine, would not be allowed to return. They could move to the future Palestinian state, be integrated into the host countries or settled in other regional countries.
  - c. Jerusalem, perhaps the most contentious issue, would be “the undivided capital” of Israel, with Palestine gaining its capital in the east of the city. In return, Israel would freeze further settlement activities on the West Bank for four years — the time for negotiations. During this period, the Palestinian Authority should dismiss its current complaints at the International Criminal Court against Israel and refrain itself from taking further actions. It should also crack down on “terrorist” groups such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad. Mr. Trump has also proposed \$50 billion in investment over 10 years should Palestine accept the proposals.
  - d. In final settlement, **Palestine would get control over more land than what it currently controls**. The plan also proposes to enlarge Gaza and connect the strip with the West Bank through a tunnel. The Arab towns in the southeast of Israel, which are close to Gaza, could become part of a future Palestinian state.



4. **Will it work?**
  - a. The Palestine position is that an independent, sovereign Palestinian state should be formed based on the 1967 border (meaning the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) with East Jerusalem as its capital (including the Old City that houses Haram esh-Sharif, also known as Temple Mount, a holy site for both Muslims and Jews). Issues like the right of return of the Palestinian refugees are to be settled in final negotiations. But Mr. Trump has effectively rejected the Palestinian claims and asked them to make more compromises. He seeks to give Jerusalem and about 30% of the West Bank to the Israelis and has denied the right of return of the Palestinian refugees — all for truncated sovereignty for the Palestinians in a state that would practically be surrounded by Israel. And for this, the Palestinians should take action

against militant groups, stop supporting Palestinian families of those jailed or killed by Israel and refrain itself from questioning the occupation in international fora.

- b. The Fatah party of President Mahmoud Abbas runs the Palestinian Authority on the West Bank, while Hamas is running Gaza. While there's a bitter feud between these two, both sides, as well as the Islamic Jihad, have come together in rejecting the Trump plan. It would be difficult for any Palestinian leader to sell Mr. Trump's proposals to a people who are living under occupation for decades. The Palestinians say the Trump administration, which recognised the disputed Jerusalem as Israel's capital and supported the settlements on the West Bank, cannot be an impartial mediator for peace. The Trump plan seems to be underscoring this argument.

## TOPIC 7. VYOMMITRA'S

1. Vyommitra, a "half-humanoid" being developed by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), announced herself in Bengaluru. She is prototype for a half-humanoid that will eventually fly to space on an unmanned mission later this year, aiming to lay ground for ISRO's manned mission Gaganyaan in 2022.
2. **What is a half-humanoid?**
  - a. A humanoid is basically a robot with appearance of a human being. Vyommitra (vyoma = space, mitra = friend) is also being called a half-humanoid since she will only have a head, two hands and a torso, and will not have lower limbs.
  - b. Like any robot, a humanoid's functions are determined by computer systems to which it is connected. With growth of artificial intelligence and robotics, humanoids are being increasingly used for repetitive jobs, waiter at restaurant.
  - c. The artificial intelligence technologies that power modern systems such as autonomous cars, or voice-operated systems such as Alexa, Siri, Google Assistant, Cortana and Bixby, are extended in a humanoid to perform simple functions that include walking, moving things, communicating and obeying commands.
3. **Why is ISRO developing a humanoid?**
  - a. ISRO plans to send a human into space for first time by 2022. It is racing against time to develop a crew module and rocket systems that will ensure safe travel and return of Indian astronaut. Other countries that have successfully launched humans into space did so after having used animals for conducting tests of their rockets and crew recovery systems, while ISRO will use humanoid to test efficacy of its GSLV Mk III rocket to transport a human to space and back. The humanoid is under development at a robotics laboratory at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
  - b. ISRO's **GSLV Mk III rocket** is currently undergoing improvisation to ensure that it is human-rated or declared safe to transport a human being to space. Its first unmanned mission with human-rated rocket is planned for December 2020. The crew module system, too, is under development, and ISRO will attempt to carry out several tests over next few months to launch and recover module using new test launch rockets, which too are under development.
  - c. ISRO has considerable experience in building robotic systems for its space projects. Artificial intelligence was at core of Vikram lander system used for September 2019 Chandrayaan 2 mission to Moon by assessing distances, speeds and processing commands stored in lander systems (lander made a failed attempt to descend to surface from an orbit around Moon).
  - d. Once flown into space, ISRO's half-humanoid will be able to test systems in crew module meant for survival and safe travel of first Indian astronaut in 2022.
4. **What are the tasks that Vyommitra will perform in space?**
  - a. A central character in science-fiction film Interstellar (2014), which is about space and time travel, is an artificial-intelligence -and-robotics-powered computer system called **TARS**, which talks to astronauts, assists them in mission functions, and even rescues them in times of crisis. TARS was not a humanoid, but a robotic system with exceptional capabilities.

- b. The Vyommitra humanoid, which will test ground for human spaceflight, will be a very basic version of a TARS-type, artificial-intelligence-and-robotics system. The activities that Vyommitra will be able to perform, once fully developed for unmanned flight, will include procedures to use equipment on board spacecraft's crew module such as safety mechanisms and switches, as well as receiving and acting on commands sent from ground stations. Attaining launch and orbital postures, responding to environment, generating warnings, replacing carbon dioxide canisters, operating switches, monitoring of the crew module, receiving voice commands, responding via speech (bilingual) are functions listed for humanoid.
- c. Vyommitra, whose human-like face has already been on display, will have lip movement synchronized to mimic speech. She can also double up as an artificial buddy to an astronaut — providing audio inputs on aspects like health of spacecraft during launch, landing and orbital phases of manned mission.
- d. Vyommitra will also report back to Earth on changes occurring in crew module during spaceflight and return, such as heat radiation levels, to enable ISRO to understand safety levels required in crew module that will eventually fly a human being.

**5. Have other space missions used humanoids?**

- a. There have been many space missions featuring dummy astronauts. There have also been many featuring humanoid robots like Vyommitra. The most recent mission with a dummy astronaut was in March 2019, when a mannequin called Ripley was flown on Dragon crew capsule, launched on a SpaceX Falcon rocket, and sent to International Space Station. Ripley was fitted with sensors to measure forces that act during a space flight as part of SpaceX preparations to send a human into space in 2020 for NASA.
- b. An artificial intelligence robot ball called CIMON (Crew Interactive Mobile Companion) was deployed on ISS by Airbus. Int-ball, a floating camera robot, was deployed on the ISS by JAXA space agency.
- c. Kirobo, a humanoid robot astronaut built in Japan, was flown to ISS along with 1<sup>st</sup> Japanese commander of ISS, Koichi Wakata, to serve as astronaut's assistant in conducting experiments on space station. Kirobo was equipped with technologies such as speech recognition, facial recognition, language processing and telecommunication capabilities.
- d. A Russian humanoid robot, Fedor, was sent to the ISS in 2019 to carry out mechanical functions on the space station.



## TOPIC 8. POLIO

1. In last one year or so, polio has made a comeback in countries such as **Philippines, Malaysia, Ghana, Myanmar, China, Cameroon, Indonesia and Iran** mostly as vaccine-derived polio infection. All these countries had wiped virus out at various times during last couple of decades; some such as Iran and Malaysia had done so even earlier.
2. **Which are the countries that have seen polio outbreaks in recent months?**
  - a. On 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019, Ministry of Health in Malaysia announced country's first case of polio since 1992. WHO announced that tests have confirmed that virus is genetically linked to poliovirus circulating in Philippines.
  - b. On 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2019, Philippines had declared an outbreak of polio. Two cases have been reported to date, both caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2. The first case was confirmed on September 14 following testing by National Polio Laboratory at Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Japan National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
  - c. Last month, CDC published a list of Asian countries where polio outbreaks have been reported. These are **Afghanistan, Burma (Myanmar), China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines**. Except for Afghanistan and Pakistan, all these countries are new entrants into the list.
  - d. CDC recommends that "all travelers to these countries be vaccinated fully against polio. Before traveling to these countries, adults who completed their routine polio vaccine series as children should receive a single, lifetime adult booster dose of polio vaccine". WHO recommends that these countries require residents and long-term (4 weeks or more) visitors show proof of polio vaccination before leaving the country.
3. **What is polio and why is it so feared?**
  - a. Polio is a crippling and potentially deadly disease that affects the nervous system...
  - b. **Because the virus lives in the faeces (poop) of an infected person, people infected with the disease can spread it to others when they do not wash their hands well after defecating (pooping).**
  - c. **People can also be infected if they drink water or eat food contaminated with infected feces.**
  - d. Most people with polio do not feel sick. Some people have only minor symptoms, such as fever, tiredness, nausea, headache, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, stiffness in the neck and back, and pain in the arms and legs. In rare cases, polio infection causes permanent loss of muscle function (paralysis). Polio can be fatal if muscles used for breathing are paralyzed or if there is an infection of brain.
  - e. The virus multiplies in intestine, from where it can invade nervous system and can cause paralysis. Once that happens, patient is crippled for life because there is no treatment for affliction. That is why polio is so dreaded. Polio infection, however, is easily preventable by a vaccine.
  - f. There are three variants of the polio virus, numbered 1 to 3.
    - i. **For a country to be declared polio-free, wild transmission of all three kinds has to be stopped.**
    - ii. **For eradication, cases of both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection to be reduced to zero.**
4. **Where does India stand?**
  - a. In January 2014, India was declared polio-free after three years on zero cases, an achievement that is widely believed to have been spurred by successful pulse polio campaign in which all children were administered polio drops. In fact, lessons from programme were later incorporated in Mission Indradhanush to bump up India's immunisation campaign, and with great success.
  - b. In 2018, there was a brief scare when some vials of polio vaccine were found contaminated with polio 2 virus that had been eradicated from country in 1999. However, WHO quickly issued a statement saying that all vaccines used in government programme in India were safe.
  - c. The last case due to wild poliovirus in the country was detected on **January 13, 2011**.
5. **What do multiple outbreaks in the vicinity mean for India?**
  - a. It calls for heightened vigilance. Officials in Ministry of Health are clear that there is no reason for undue panic because, thanks to shared borders with a polio-endemic country (Pakistan), India's preparedness for preventing a polio influx is already very high. "There is no reason for any knee-jerk response because our polio surveillance mechanism is always on high alert and at airports we already look out for polio entry from seven-eight countries at all times. We are very well prepared to defend our polio-free status,".
  - b. Some years ago, India introduced injectable polio vaccine in Universal Immunization Programme. This was to reduce chances of vaccine-derived polio infection, which continues to happen in country. If both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection are reduced to zero, it would mean there is no trace left of virus anywhere in the world, except in controlled situations in laboratories for future contingencies.

## TOPIC 9. VIDHAN PARISHADS

1. Andhra Pradesh Assembly on passed a resolution to abolish state's Legislative Council. The resolution was passed under **Article 169(1)** of Constitution, which **allows Parliament to either create or abolish a Council in a state "if Legislative Assembly of State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of total membership of Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of members of Assembly present and voting"**.
2. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet decided to abolish state's Legislative Council.
3. After Cabinet meeting, Assembly will meet later to introduce a resolution to abolish Legislative Council.
4. After passing resolution, government will send it to Governor for his approval and then send it to Parliament for ratification.
5. **The Council's journey**
  - a. Vidhan Parishad of united Andhra Pradesh was created on July 1, 1958 and dissolved on May 31, 1985. It was resurrected after 22 years, on March 30, 2007.
  - b. Since bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, Council has had 58 members.
6. **ROLE OF PARLIAMENT:**
  - a. Parliament approves the resolution passed by the Assembly.
  - b. Union Law Ministry will prepare a Bill to be tabled in Parliament.
  - c. The process may take 3-6 months, during which time Council will continue to function.
7. **COUNCILS IN CONSTITUTION**
  - a. Under **Article 168**, states can have either one or two Houses of legislature. **Article 169** leaves the choice of having a Vidhan Parishad to individual states.
  - b. The Constituent Assembly was divided on having a second chamber in states. It was argued that a second House can help check hasty actions by directly elected House, and also enable non-elected persons to contribute to legislative process. However, it was also felt that some of poorer states could ill afford extravagance of two Houses.
  - c. ***It has been pointed out that Councils can be used to delay important legislation and to park leaders who have not been able to win an election.***
  - d. Under **Article 171**, a Council cannot have more than a third of number of MLAs in state, and not less than 40 members. A third of MLCs are elected by MLAs, another third by a special electorate comprising sitting members of local government bodies such as municipalities and district boards, 1/12th by an electorate of teachers, and another 1/12th by registered graduates. The remaining members are appointed by the Governor for distinguished services in various fields.
8. **Councils in other states**
  - a. Besides Andhra Pradesh 5 other states have Vidhan Parishads — **Bihar (58 members), Karnataka (75), Maharashtra (78), Telangana (40), UP (100)**. Jammu and Kashmir had a Council until state was bifurcated into Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
  - b. In 1986, M G Ramachandran government in **Tamil Nadu** abolished Council. The DMK government passed a law revive it, but subsequent J Jayalithaa-led government withdrew it after coming to power in 2010.
  - c. The **Odisha** Assembly has passed a resolution for a Legislative Council. Proposals to create Councils in **Rajasthan and Assam** are pending in Rajya Sabha.
  - d. The parliamentary panel that examined Rajasthan Bill advocated a **national policy for creation and abolition of Councils: "The status of Second Chamber cannot be of temporary in nature depending on mood of Government of day nor can be abolished once created, only at whims and fancy of a newly elected Government in State."**
  - e. **Opposition to idea of Legislative Councils** is centered on three broad arguments.
    - i. One, they can be used to park leaders who have not been able to win an election.
    - ii. Two, they can be used to delay progressive legislation.
    - iii. Three, they would strain state finances.
9. **India has a bicameral system i.e., two Houses of Parliament.**
  - a. **At state level, equivalent of Lok Sabha is Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly; that of Rajya Sabha is Vidhan Parishad or Legislative Council.**
  - b. The second House of the legislature is considered important for two reasons:
    - i. one, to act as a check on hasty actions by popularly elected House and
    - ii. two, to ensure that individuals who might not be cut out for rough-and-tumble of direct elections too are able to contribute to legislative process.

- c. The Councils are less powerful than Rajya Sabha, however. Unlike, Rajya Sabha, which has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation, Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so; Assemblies can override suggestions / amendments made to a legislation by the Council.
- d. Also, unlike Rajya Sabha MPs, Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) cannot vote in elections for President and Vice President. The Vice President is Rajya Sabha Chairperson; an MLC is Council Chairperson.

**10. How are Council's members elected?**

- a. Although its membership may vary in each state, Legislative Council must not have more than a third of total membership of the Assembly of that state, and in no case fewer than 40 members.
- b. About 1/3rd of members are elected by members of the Assembly (MLAs), another 1/3rd by electorates consisting of members of municipalities, district boards and other local authorities in the state, 1/12th by an electorate consisting of teachers, and 1/12th by registered graduates.
- c. The remaining members are nominated by the Governor from among those who have distinguished themselves in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement, and social service.
- d. Legislative Councils are permanent Houses, and like Rajya Sabha, one-third of their members retire every 2 years.

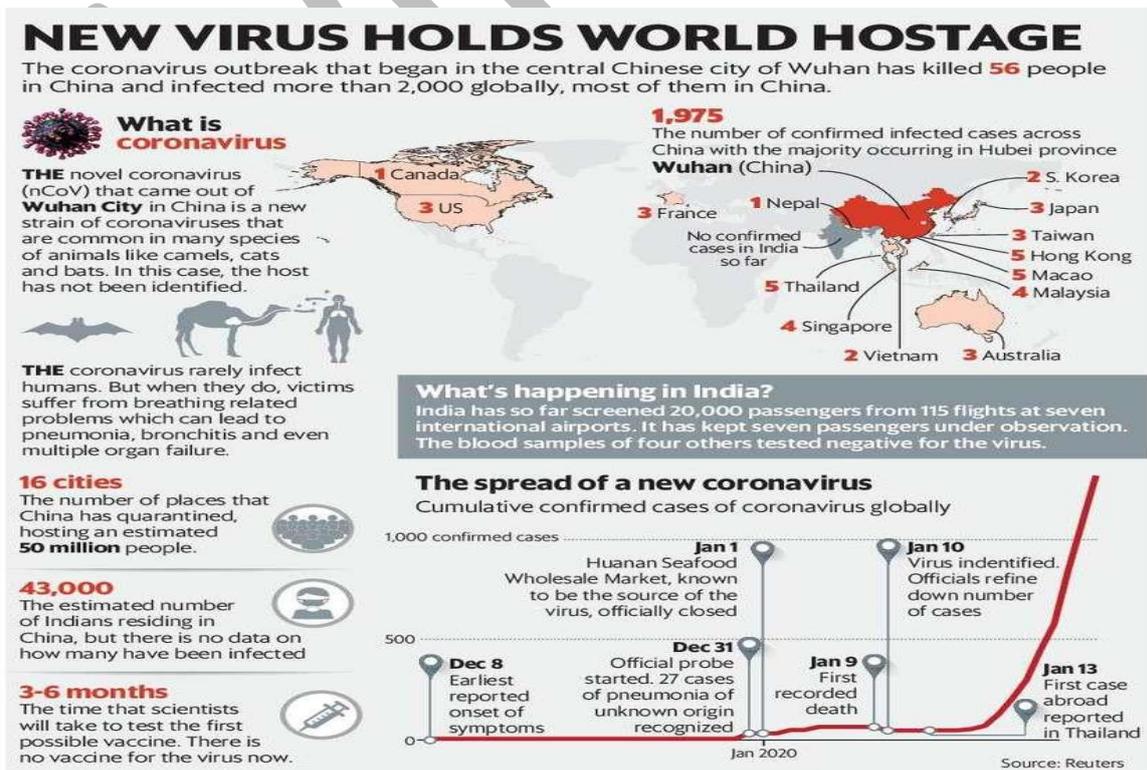
Composition of a Legislative Council	
Constituency	Number of Members to be elected
Graduates	One-Twelfth (1/12th)
Teachers	One-Twelfth (1/12th)
Local Authorities	Nearly One-Third (1/3rd)
Assembly Members	Nearly One-Third (1/3rd)
Nomination by Governor	Remaining

## Indian States with Bicameral Legislature



## TOPIC 10. CORONAVIRUS

1. With a population of nearly 1.4 billion and 50% of world's livestock, China's ecology poses a risk for emerging, re-emerging, and novel diseases that could threaten China and the rest of the world.
2. Several deadly new viruses in recent years have emerged in China — **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), bird flu**, and now the novel **coronavirus (nCOV)**.
3. **REASON**
  - a. busy food markets dotting cities across country - where fruits, vegetables, hairy crabs and butchered meat are often sold next to bamboo rats, snakes, turtles, and palm civets.
  - b. Closely packed stalls in busy marketplaces,
  - c. Chinese taste for exotic meats, and
  - d. high population density of cities create conditions for spread of zoonotic infections.
4. **Zoonotic infections**
  - a. The relationship between zoonotic pathogens - those of animal origin and global pandemics is not new. The Justinian Plague (541-542 AD), Black Death (which started in Europe in 1347), yellow fever in South America in 16<sup>th</sup> century, global influenza pandemic in 1918, and modern pandemics such as HIV / AIDS, SARS, and triple-reassortant A H1N1 influenza have one thing in common: **causal organisms came to humans from animals**.
  - b. WHO estimates that globally about a billion cases of illness and millions of deaths occur every year from **zoonoses, i.e, diseases and infections naturally transmitted between people and vertebrate animals**. Some 60% of emerging infectious diseases globally are zoonoses. Of over 30 new human pathogens detected over last 3 decades, 75% originated in animals.
5. **Ecology of infections, spread**
  - a. With a population of nearly 1.4 billion and 50% of world's livestock, China's ecology poses a risk for emerging, re-emerging, and novel diseases that could threaten China and rest of the world.
  - b. Moreover, world's growing network of air travel routes dramatically increases risk for infections to rapidly spread and for potential pandemics that can cause illness, death, and costly disruption to global trade.
  - c. The SARS epidemic began in November 2002 in Guangdong province of southern China and spread across world. Bird flu of various provenances - virus keeps mutating - have been repeatedly reported from China after 1<sup>st</sup> H7N9 novel avian influenza outbreak of 2013. In 2018, a 68-year-old patient from Jiangsu province was infected with H7N4. Last year, there was an outbreak of H5N6 bird flu in Horgos in the far western Xinjiang region.



# The spread of a deadly virus

In one week, the number of people found infected by a new coronavirus grew from 332 people in 13 Chinese provinces and four nations to 4,474 cases in 30 provinces and 18 countries. Hubei in China was the worst affected province with over 2,714 cases and 100 deaths as of January 27. By **Vignesh Radhakrishnan & Sumant Sen**

Maps show cases in Chinese provinces. ■ 1 - 10 cases ■ 11 to 25 ■ 26 to 50 ■ 51 to 100 ■ 101 to 150 ■ 151 to 200 ■ > 200

**Jan. 22, 00:00 hours** | Cases: **332**  
Deaths: 0 | Recovered: 0



**Cases worldwide**  
Thailand: 2 | Japan: 1 | US: 1  
South Korea: 1

**Jan. 23, 12:00 hours** | Cases: **653**  
Deaths: 18 | Recovered: 30



Thailand: 3 | Vietnam: 2 | Macau: 2  
Hong Kong: 2 | U.S.: 1 | Taiwan: 1  
South Korea: 1 | Singapore: 1 | Japan: 1

**Jan. 24, 12:00 hours** | Cases: **941**  
Deaths: 26 | Recovered: 36



Thailand: 5 | Taiwan: 3 | Singapore: 3  
Vietnam: 2 | U.S.: 2 | S. Korea: 2 | Macau: 2  
Japan: 2 | Hong Kong: 2 | France: 2

**Jan. 25, 22:00 hours** | Cases: **2,019**  
Deaths: 56 | Recovered: 49



Thailand: 7 | Hong Kong: 5 | Australia: 4  
Taiwan: 3 | South Korea: 3 | Singapore: 3  
Malaysia: 3 | France: 3 | Vietnam: 2  
US: 2 | Macau: 2 | Japan: 2 | Nepal: 1

Source: Centre for Systems Science  
and Engineering, Johns Hopkins University

**Jan. 26, 23:00 hours** | Cases: **2,794**  
Deaths: 80 | Recovered: 54



Thailand: 8 | Hong Kong: 8 | Macau: 6  
U.S.: 5 | Taiwan: 4 | Singapore: 4  
Malaysia: 4 | Japan: 4 | Australia: 4  
South Korea: 3 | France: 3 | Vietnam: 2  
Nepal: 1 | Canada: 1

**Jan. 27, 20:30 hours** | Cases: **4,474**  
Deaths: 107 | Recovered: 63

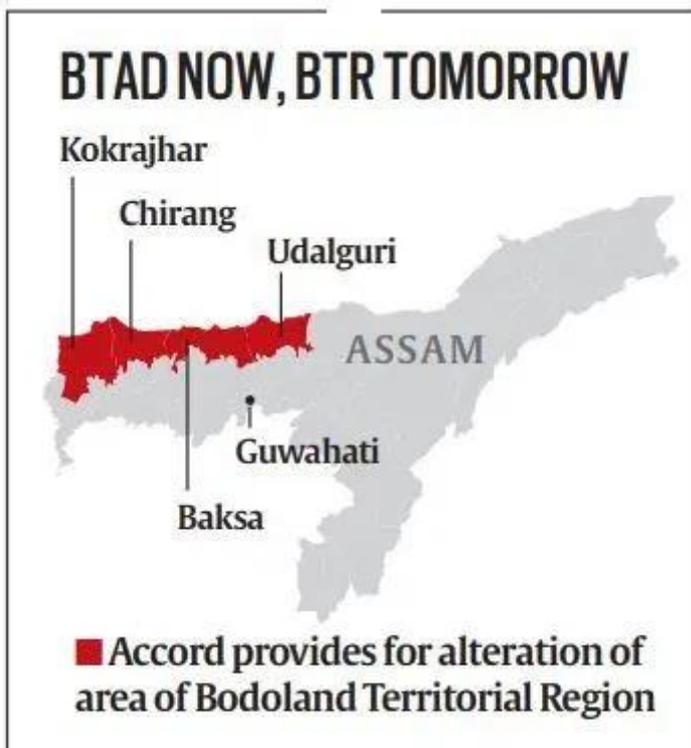


Thailand: 8 | Hong Kong: 8 | Macau: 6  
U.S.: 5 | Taiwan: 5 | Singapore: 5 | Australia: 5  
South Korea: 4 | Malaysia: 4 | Japan: 4  
France: 3 | Vietnam: 2 | Sri Lanka: 1  
Nepal: 1 | Ivory Coast: 1 | Germany: 1  
Canada: 1 | Cambodia: 1

## TOPIC 11. BODO ACCORD

1. Centre, Assam government and Bodo groups — including all factions of militant National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) — signed an agreement for peace and development.
2. Home Minister described it as “final and comprehensive solution” of long-standing Bodo issue.
3. **What is the Bodo issue?**
  - a. Bodos are single largest community among notified Scheduled Tribes in Assam. Part of larger umbrella of Bodo-Kachari, Bodos constitute about 5-6% of Assam’s population.
  - b. The first organised demand for a Bodo state came in 1967-68 under banner of political party Plains Tribals Council of Assam. In 1985, when Assam Movement culminated in Assam Accord, many Bodos saw it as essentially focusing on interests of Assamese-speaking community. In 1987, All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) led by Upendra Nath Brahma revived Bodo statehood demand. The armed group Bodo Security Force arose, under the leadership of Ranjan Daimary, in October 1986. It subsequently renamed itself NDFB, and later split into factions.
  - c. “All NDFB factions under SoO [Suspension of Operations] shall abjure path of violence, surrender their weapons and disband their armed organisations within one month of signing this MoS,” Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) said.
4. **Amid protests against Citizenship Amendment Act, what is the political takeaway from the Accord?**
  - a. At a time when ruling BJP is under fire from large Assamese-speaking community, Accord underlines its effort to cement its hold among Bodo voters. The Assamese-speaking community had voted overwhelmingly for BJP in 2016. Now Assamese student leaders, activists, popular singers and actors, and eminent citizens have addressed large, anti-BJP protest gatherings across state. These have been prominent in Upper Assam in east, where Assamese-speaking community is dominant. The Bodoland region is in western Assam, and large sections of Bodos are already seen as supportive of BJP.
5. **What is the BTC?**
  - a. It is an autonomous body under **6<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Constitution**. There have been two Bodo Accords earlier, and 2<sup>nd</sup> one led to formation of BTC. The ABSU-led movement from 1987 culminated in a 1993 Bodo Accord, which paved way for a Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC), but ABSU withdrew its agreement and renewed its demand for a separate state. In 2003, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bodo Accord was signed by extremist group Bodo Liberation Tiger Force (BLTF), Centre and State. This led to BTC.
6. **What has been settled now?**
  - a. Primarily, a truce with four factions of NDFB after decades of armed movement that, according to Shah, claimed over 4,000 lives. **“The most significant point is this Accord marks end of armed movement. The coming of all factions of armed groups together to sign Accord is a very big thing.”**
  - b. **“Negotiations were held with Bodo organisations for a comprehensive and final solution to their demands while keeping intact territorial integrity of State of Assam.”**
7. **What was agreed on territory?**
  - a. The area under jurisdiction of BTC, formed under 2003 Accord, was called Bodo Territorial Autonomous District (BTAD). On Monday, BTAD was renamed **Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR)**.
  - b. BTAD comprises **Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri** districts, accounting for 11% of Assam’s area and 10% of its population. Estimates for Bodo population in BTAD vary.
  - c. The new Accord provides for **“alteration of area of BTAD” and “provisions for Bodos outside BTAD”**. A commission appointed by state government will examine and recommend if villages contiguous to BTAD and with a majority tribal population can be included into BTR while those now in BTAD and with a majority non-tribal population can opt out of BTR. This will lead to an increase in Bodo population in BTR and decrease in non-tribal population leading to mitigation of inter-community clashes wherever it was happening.
  - d. The government will set up a Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council for focused development of Bodo villages outside BTAD — which opens up a way to potentially address needs of Bodos outside BTAD.
  - e. Several of provisions agreed upon were an extension of what was already in effect. For instance, it provides for **more legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers to BTC; and amendments to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to “improve the financial resources and administrative powers of BTC”**. The 2020 agreement says Government of Assam **“will notify Bodo language in Devanagiri script as the associate official language in the state”**.
8. **What happens to the cases that were filed during the armed movement?**

- a. On January 30, 1,500 cadres of NDFB factions will lay down arms before state government. The MoS states New Delhi and Dispur will take ***all necessary steps to rehabilitate cadres, such as ex-gratia, funding economic activities, vocational training and recruitment in appropriate government jobs.***



### ₹1.5K CR PACKAGE

- Bodos to get ₹1,500 crore development package in 3 years
- General amnesty for cadres with non-heinous crimes
- Bodo to be Assam's associate official language

**Accord ends 34 yrs armed & democratic campaign that killed 4,000 people**

## Bodo Accord Explained



### What is Bodo Accord

Accord between the central government, All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) and all the factions of National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB) per which Bodos will get certain political and economic benefits. This is the third Bodo accord signed in the last 27 years.

### Who are Bodos

The Bodo people are the largest tribe of Assam accounting for ~ 28 percent of Assam's population and are one of the earliest inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley. Bodos have been running a movement since 1960s to demand a separate territory for themselves.

### Why the Bodo movement started

Bodo have felt that over the years their culture and economic interest have been marginalized due to influx of migrants and exploitation of resources.

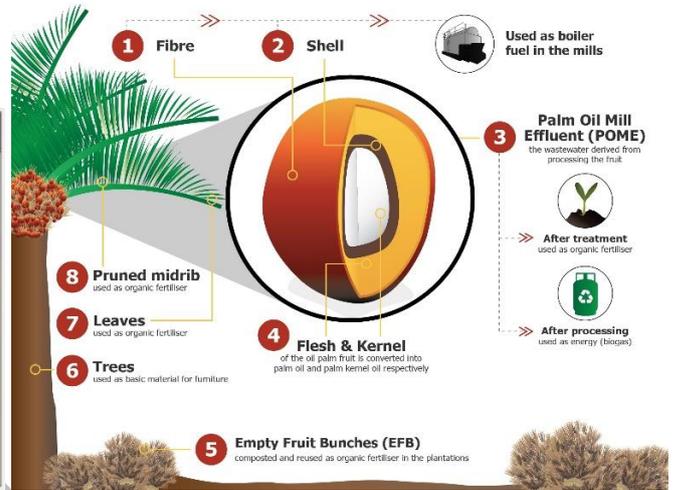
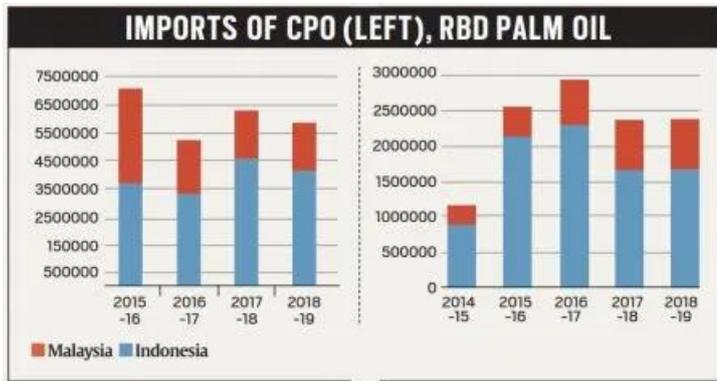
### BTR and BTC

4 Districts in Assam (Udalguri, Chirang, Baska and Kokrajhar) will together be called Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). BTR is overseen by the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), an autonomous district council established in 2003.

## TOPIC 12. PALM OIL

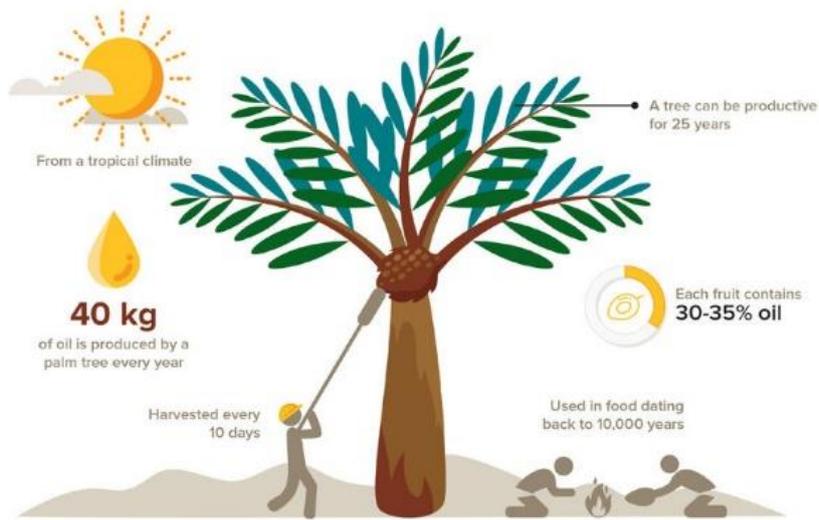
- 1. India has cut import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) and refined, bleached and deodorised (RBD) palm oil, and also moved RBD oil from the “free” to the “restricted” list of imports.**
2. While curbing oil imports has been under discussion since Budget presented in July 2019, move has been construed as retaliation against Malaysia’s Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, who has criticised India’s internal policy decisions such as revocation of special status for Jammu and Kashmir and new citizenship Act.
3. Malaysia has also been sheltering since 2017 Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted by India on charges of money laundering, hate speech, and links to terror.
- 4. Has India banned import of Malaysian palm oil because of political reasons?**
  - a. Not really. The import of RBD palm oil has been restricted, not banned and this is from all countries, not just Malaysia. Also, CPO can still be imported freely.
  - b. Under trade classification system that India follows, except for goods that can be imported only by state trading enterprises (such as Food Corporation of India), all goods whose import is not restricted or prohibited are traded freely.
  - c. Normally, a special licence is required to import a restricted good. The government has neither specified what restrictions entail nor issued any licences. However, it has been reported that vessels carrying RBD palm oil are stuck at several ports because buyers have been asked to shun product.
- 5. How much palm oil does India import?**
  - a. India imported 64.15 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of CPO and 23.9 lakh MT of RBD in 2018-19, bulk of which was from Indonesia. (Charts 1 and 2 right)
  - b. Commerce Ministry data show India imported **\$10 billion worth of vegetable oil** in 2019-20, making it the country’s fifth most valuable import after **mineral oil (\$141 bn), gold (\$32 bn), coal (\$26 bn), and telecom instruments such as cell phones (\$17 bn).**
- 6. Why does India need so much palm oil?**
  - a. **It is cheapest edible oil available naturally.**
  - b. **Its inert taste makes it suitable for use in foods ranging from baked goods to fried snacks.**
  - c. **It stays relatively stable at high temperatures and is therefore suitable for reuse and deep frying.**
  - d. **It is the main ingredient in vanaspati (hydrogenated vegetable oil).**
  - e. However, palm oil is not used in Indian homes. That, and fact that CPO continues to be imported, makes it unlikely that decision to restrict refined palm oil imports will impact food inflation immediately.
- 7. Who will be impacted by the decision?**
  - a. Indonesia and Malaysia together produce **85% of world’s palm oil** and India is among biggest buyers. Both Indonesia and Malaysia produce refined palm oil; however, Malaysia’s refining capacity equals its production capacity — this is why Malaysia is keen on exporting refined oil. Indonesia, on other hand, can supply CPO, which would allow India to utilise its full refining capacity.
  - b. The CPO that India imports contains fatty acids, gums and wax-like substances. Refining neutralises acids and filters out other substances. The filtrate is bleached so that oil does not change colour after repeated use. Substances that may cause oil to smell are removed physically or chemically. This entire process increases value of a barrel of crude oil by about 4%.
  - c. Additionally, there are costs to transporting crude, which makes it more cost-effective to import refined oil. But the refining industry has been demanding that the import duty on refined oil be increased, which would make importing crude oil cheaper than importing refined oil. The decision to restrict imports of refined oil will benefit refiners, which include big-ticket names like Adani Wilmar group.
- 8. Will restricting imports of RBD palm oil help farmers?**
  - a. Restricting refined oil imports will not help farmers directly, as they are not involved in process of refining. However, restrictions have caused refined palm oil prices to increase. If prices continue to hold, farmers will get a better realisation for their crop.
  - b. But timeframe over which changes in import policy will have an effect on **domestic crop realisation is fairly long, given that palm trees take over four years to provide a yield.** Also, if demand is met entirely by importing and refining CPO, farmers will be left out of the picture.
- 9. How will Malaysia be affected?**
  - a. Malaysia has said that it cannot retaliate against India because it is “too small”. With imports to its largest market restricted (India bought over 23% of all CPO produced by Malaysia in 2019), Malaysian palm oil futures fell by almost 10% between January 10 and 17, although it has recovered since then.

b. India and Malaysia signed a free trade agreement — Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement — in February 2011. Under agreement, India was required to reduce import duty on CPO to 37.5% (from 40%) by December 2019, and on RBD to 45% (from 54%) by December 31, 2018. In 2018, Malaysia exported 25.8% of its palm oil to India. If India does not issue licenses for importing refined oil, Malaysia will have to find new buyers for its product.



## The Palm Oil Story

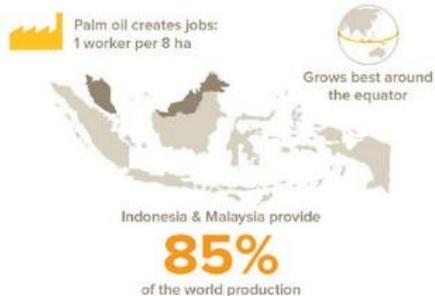
The most widely used vegetable in the world



### Land-use efficiency



### Economic contribution



## TOPIC 13. NO-FLY LIST

1. Four airlines in India - IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India and GoAir have banned stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra from taking their flights after he allegedly heckled television news anchor Arnab Goswami on an IndiGo flight.
2. **What are the rules for putting a flier on the no-fly list?**
  - a. In 2017, government issued rules for preventing disruptive behaviour by air travellers and laid down guidelines for a no-fly list. As per rules, a complaint of unruly behaviour needs to be filed by pilot-in-command, and this is to be probed by an internal committee to be set up by airline. During period of pendency of inquiry, the rules empower concerned airline to impose a ban on the passenger. The committee is to decide the matter within 30 days, and also specify the ban duration.
  - b. The rules define three categories of unruly behaviour:
    - i. **Level 1** refers to behaviour that is verbally unruly, and calls for debarment up to three months;
    - ii. **Level 2** indicates physical unruliness and can lead to passenger being debarred from flying for up to six months;
    - iii. **Level 3** indicates life-threatening behaviour for which debarment would be for a minimum of two years.
3. **Why is there a no-fly list?**
  - a. The Civil Aviation Requirements issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) note that unruly behaviour on board aircraft has been declared an offence and is a punishable act. Even one unruly passenger can jeopardise safety on board. The government kick-started process of developing these rules after an incident involving then MP Ravindra Gaikwad assaulting an Air India staffer on a flight back in 2017. Subsequently, a clutch of airlines banned Gaikwad from travelling on their flights; this was in effect for 2 weeks. The government came out with no-fly list in September that year.
4. **How does someone end up on the list?**
  - a. A no-fly list essentially begins with a passenger causing verbal, physical or life-threatening unruliness.
  - b. The DGCA has given an indicative list of actions that may be construed as unruly. These include:
    - i. consuming alcohol or drugs resulting in unruly behaviour;
    - ii. smoking in an aircraft;
    - iii. using threatening or abusive language towards a member of the crew or other passengers;
    - iv. intentionally interfering with the performance of the duties of a crew member etc.
  - c. Once the pilot-in-command submits his complaint, the airline is bound to refer the complaint to its internal committee. During course of enquiry, airline can ban passenger from flying for a maximum period of up to 30 days. In addition, Ministry of Home Affairs provides a list of individuals identified as national security threats to DGCA and to airlines for inclusion in no-fly list.
5. **What is the structure of the internal committee?**
  - a. The internal committee is to consist of a retired district and sessions judge as Chairman, along with a representative from a different scheduled airline and a representative from a passengers association or consumer association as members. The internal committee shall give final decision in 30 days by giving the reasons in writing, the rules state, and the decision of the committee shall be binding on the airline concerned. In case the committee fails to take a decision in 30 days, the passenger will be free to fly.
6. **Is there redress for someone declared guilty by the internal committee?**
  - a. Any aggrieved person, upon receipt of communication of a ban from the airline, may appeal within 60 days from the date of issue of the order, to an Appellate Committee constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, consisting of a retired judge of a High Court as Chairman; a representative from a passengers' association or a consumer association; and an airlines representative not below the rank of vice-president or equivalent.
  - b. The rules, however, do not specify the functional details of either the internal committee or the appellate committee, and whether they would invite the accused to make their case. The Civil Aviation Requirements state that the decision of the appellate committee shall be final and that any further appeal shall lie in a High Court.
7. **Who have been put on the no-fly list?**
  - a. The same year that the rules were notified, a businessman on a Jet Airways Mumbai-Delhi flight had left a note in the lavatory, warning there were hijackers and explosives on board. The flight had to make an emergency landing. For the hoax, the businessman became first person to be put on no-fly list and also be charged under new Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016. A special NIA court awarded him life imprisonment

and a fine of Rs 5 crore. There have been other instances of unruly behaviour in flights, but neither concerned airlines nor government has moved towards putting such passengers on no-fly list.

**8. Will Kamra be able to fly again on domestic flights?**

- a. So far, four airlines have suspended his flying rights, while Vistara and AirAsia India have said they will review the situation and follow due process. Although IndiGo has announced a six-month ban, a final decision on severity and duration of the rests on the airline's internal committee following its inquiry.
- b. If a person has been put on no-fly list of domestic airlines, there is still a possibility that she can take international flights since DGCA requirement applies only for Indian airlines. Things get complex in case of a codeshare, with one leg of trip operated by an Indian airline and other one by an overseas airline.

**9. How do other countries manage no-fly lists?**

- a. India is one of few countries where airlines have been empowered to straight away ban a person from taking their flights. In aviation markets like US or Canada, no-fly list is more oriented to be a terror-watch program. In US, the no-fly list had less than 20 people prior to 9/11, but sky-rocketed to thousands following attacks. Cases of disruption with unruly behaviour, however, has got people on no-fly list in US. In 2016, US-based Delta Airlines banned a passenger for life after he was caught on video shouting profane political comments on its flight.

## TOPIC 14. KARNATAKA ANTI-SUPERSTITION LAW

1. The law, which was initially drafted as Karnataka Anti Superstition Bill, 2013, was a pet project of former Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.
2. **The inclusion of practices considered to have Vedic origins, such as Vaastu and astrology, among practices to be banned** was opposed by various groups including leaders of the BJP.
3. A controversial anti-superstition law in Karnataka, which was passed during tenure of a former government in a diluted form as **Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017**, and received assent of Governor on December 6, 2017, was formally notified by current government on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020.
4. **The earlier drafts**
  - a. An expert panel from Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy of National Law School of India University (NLSIU) first presented a draft Bill, outlawing over a dozen superstitious practices in 2013. The model Bill held human dignity as its central tenet and sought eradication of irrational practices found in different communities. The first draft made practices like inflicting self-wounds and conversion through bribery illegal.
  - b. However, soon after the draft came into the public domain, it attracted resistance – from the then opposition BJP, Janata Dal (Secular) and religious leaders. The BJP called it anti-Hindu, and a Lingayat seer called it an attack on the Lingayat community, single largest in state. Even senior Congress leaders questioned need for new law.
  - c. Some of proposals opposed by religious leaders and political parties in early draft were ban on practices such as carrying of priests in palanquins, worshipping feet of religious leaders, and Made Snana practised in Dakshina Kannada region where Dalits roll over remains of food consumed by upper castes. There was also political opposition for a proposed ban on practice of Vaastu, astrology and palmistry.
  - d. Drafts of Bill put out by Congress government in 2014 and 2016 also faced opposition. The inclusion of practices considered to have Vedic origins, such as Vaastu and astrology, among practices to be banned was opposed by various groups including leaders of the BJP.
5. **The current version**
  - a. A Bill with sizable consensus across political spectrum finally evolved in 2017. **The practice of Vaastu, astrology, pradakshina or circumambulation of holy places, yatras, parikramas performed at religious places were kept out of the purview of the law.**
  - b. **Made Snana** was banned under law with respect to having Dalits roll over left over food. The practice has now been modified to be voluntary and not involving leftover food.
  - c. **Practices such as barring menstruating women from entering houses of worship and their homes, coercing people to take part in fire-walks, and beating up people by declaring them evil, are among irrational practices** that have been banned under 2017 law. A total of 16 practices have been banned under law.
6. **The penalties**
  - a. The law stipulates ***“imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year but which may extend to seven years and with fine which shall not be less than five thousand rupees but which may extend to fifty thousand rupees”***, as punishment for violations.
  - b. The law is to implement by state police with appointment of vigilance officers under law at police stations.

## TOPIC 15. INDIAN CONSTITUTION

1. At 70, only Constitutions, tortoises and whales are dubbed “young.” Though young, Indian Constitution has undergone tremendous change over these seven decades. Starting with 395 Articles and 8 Schedules, it now stands at over **450 Articles and 12 Schedules** - a result of **104 amendments**.
2. **These amendments have changed essential aspects of republic, such as fundamental rights, federalism, democratic participation, judicial review, etc.**
3. These amendments were usually not enacted to strengthen constitutional protections. When courts invalidated government’s agenda by upholding individual rights and Constitutional guarantees, Parliament responded by removing constitutional roadblock through a Constitutional amendment. Despite this, Constitution has also shown remarkable resilience by surviving assaults on it, especially during Emergency.
4. In recent student-led protests against government, protesters have been carrying copies of Constitution and have mass recitations of its preamble. At a time Constitution has become a part of language of protest, it is worth looking at India’s Constitutional journey over last seventy years - loss of our Constitutional rights, changes made to our democratic fabric, role played by different institutions in Constitutional erosion, and fight to protect Constitutional ethos.
5. **in the beginning**
  - a. Almost immediately after Constitution was adopted, various government policies were challenged as unconstitutional. The English weekly Cross Roads published by Romesh Thapar, a communist, was banned in Madras for criticizing the government. Publisher Brij Bhushan’s Organizer was banned in Delhi for potentially invoking anti-Muslim sentiments. When challenged, Supreme Court upheld Thapar and Bhushan’s right to freedom of expression and held that securing “public order” was not one of enumerated exceptions to free speech under **Article 19(2)**.
  - b. Another problem was executing land reforms. To end zamindari oppression, some states gave low compensation to richer zamindars for taking their land for redistribution. This was held unconstitutional by some high courts because **Article 14** guaranteed equal protection under law and did not allow discrimination against richer zamindars. But, paying full compensation to landlords like Maharaja of Darbhanga, Kameshwar Singh, defeated land reform agenda.
  - c. State also ran afoul of courts while trying to nationalize and create state monopolies on services like bus transport routes, as these encroached on right to livelihood of private transport providers. The litigious citizens of India embraced Constitution with great fervor but created major problems for then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru’s government.
  - d. The provisional Parliament amended Constitution in response to courts strictly enforcing fundamental rights. The first amendment read in exceptions like “public order” to right to freedom of expression; and exceptions to right to livelihood.
  - e. Zamindari was a bigger problem, and weakening equal protection guaranteed by Article 14 was considered ill-advised. So, in addition to adding exceptions to Article 31 dealing with land acquisition, provisional Parliament created a new constitutional vehicle under Article 31B, called **Ninth Schedule**.
  - f. Any law included in Ninth Schedule was protected from judicial review, even if it was unconstitutional and violating Fundamental Rights. What started as a list of 13 laws enabling land reform has since expanded to protect 282 unconstitutional laws enabling nationalization, currency controls, price and quantity controls and even the excesses of Emergency.
  - g. The **1<sup>st</sup> Amendment**, crafted by framers of Constitution, set tone for future. It was clear that if intentions were good, it was acceptable to use Constitutional amendments to remove constraints on government.
  - h. So, **Fundamental Rights** were frequently amended, when these static rights were seen to constrain government’s dynamic socialist and welfare agenda. And, when socialist planning clashed with individual rights, Parliament amended Constitution to accommodate it to policy, instead of the other way around.
6. **The Assault**
  - a. Former PM Indira Gandhi pursued a socialist agenda aggressively in her 10 Point Programme. This included nationalization, curbing monopolies, land reforms, urban land ceiling, rural housing, etc. Much of socialist agenda was furthering Directive Principles in Constitution but was in violation of Fundamental Rights.
  - b. In response, 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which took away supremacy of Fundamental Rights, was a particularly big blow. Indira Gandhi also made most additions to Ninth Schedule - 124 laws to enable nationalization,

currency controls, land ceiling, rent control, regulate monopolies, and even protect her Lok Sabha seat. She famously said, "We should be vigilant to see that our march to progress is not hampered in the name of the Constitution." Her government amended Constitution so frequently that, in 1967 in **Golak Nath case**, the Supreme Court limited ability of Parliament to amend Fundamental Rights. As a response, government amended the procedure in Article 368, to regain the authority to amend the Constitution!

- c. When amendability of Constitution was challenged once again in 1973, the Supreme Court crafted the now canonical Basic Structure Doctrine in the famous **Kesavananda Bharti case**, opining that Parliament may amend but cannot change the basic structure of the Constitution. Cleverly, the justices did not clarify exactly what comprised the basic structure and left it to be decided on a case by case basis.
- d. But worst was yet to come. As Indira Gandhi announced Emergency, elections and civil liberties were suspended and she ruled by decree. In August 1975, she passed **39<sup>th</sup> Amendment**, which among many other provisions withdrew election of PM from judicial review; declared Allahabad High Court decision invalidating her election, void; and excluded Supreme Court's jurisdiction to hear an appeal on election.
- e. Indira Gandhi then rewrote Constitution through 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. Starting with Preamble, this amendment changed most fundamental aspects of Indian republic. It changed relationship between state and citizen by adding a chapter on Fundamental Duties of citizens. It curbed judicial review power of Supreme Court and high courts and placed legislature in a higher position. It subverted federalism by increasing length of President's Rule, redistributing legislative subjects in 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule. Fundamental Rights took a beating by creating exceptions for anti-national activities.
- f. The Morarji Desai government reversed most of damage done in 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, but some provisions still remain. The preamble of Constitution, being read in protests across country today, is not original, but Indira Gandhi version. Fundamental Duties, invoked often by PM Narendra Modi, have also survived.

#### 7. the Democratic Fabric

- a. The framers required that each state receive legislative seats in proportion to its population, mandated constituencies of roughly equal size, and capped total number of legislative seats. To give effect to this, framers envisaged reallocation of seats after every census. The **42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment** froze constituencies per state based on 1971 census and also suspended revision of seats until after 2001 Census.
- b. In 2002, through **84<sup>th</sup> Amendment**, Parliament once again postponed this problem until 2031 census. Indians still vote in constituencies based on census figures from almost half a century ago! Members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu have 1.8 million constituents per Lok Sabha seat on average versus 3 million constituents per Lok Sabha seat on average in Uttar Pradesh. This has caused a major asymmetry in political representation in India and will be an important political debate in future as India's population grows unevenly across states.
- c. 1980s provided some respite after onslaught of 1970s. But **52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment** introduced anti-defection law, severely curbing ability of individual MPs to effectively represent their constituents' preferences.
- d. In 1990s, India saw a different kind of revival of political representation. The **73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments** created provisions for constitutionally mandated local governments in India. These amendments changed nature of local political participation in India.

#### 8. reinterpreting reservation

- a. Following Mandal Commission recommendations, reservations also dominated 1990s. In 1992, VP Singh government created a 27% quota in all government jobs for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), in addition to existing 22.5% reservation for SC/ST candidates. On challenge, Supreme Court held that reservation policy was constitutionally valid, but reserved jobs could not exceed 50% of all government jobs.
- b. Subsequent related amendments reversed other constraints imposed by Supreme Court - allowing promotions in reserved category (**77<sup>th</sup> Amendment**), backlog of unfilled vacant posts as a separate category (**82<sup>nd</sup> Amendment**), and seniority of SC/ST candidates promoted on rule of reservation (**85<sup>th</sup> Amendment**).
- c. While concept of reservations for disadvantaged groups was at core of equality and anti-discrimination envisaged by framers, recent amendments have been criticized. They have done little to address structural causes of discrimination and are narrowly focused on government jobs.
- d. A second trend is of adding groups that are not historically disadvantaged. The **103<sup>rd</sup> Amendment** passed by Modi government breaches Mandal limit by adding 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (determined by "family income" and "indicators of economic disadvantage"). The framers created

provisions to dismantle the centuries-old caste oppression. But it goes against the spirit of the Constitution to include erstwhile oppressors in the same protected class as Dalits.

## 9. Amendment by interpretation

- a. **Formally amending text in Parliament is not only way to change Constitution. It is also frequently rewritten by judiciary through interpretation.** For instance, Supreme Court enlarged Fundamental Rights by reading in right to a clean environment, livelihood, food, water, clean drinking water, clean air, education, medical care, shelter, and privacy.
- b. But Court has not always been public spirited. The most egregious case of self-interest is reinterpretation of Articles 124 and 217, which outline judges' appointment procedure, giving President power to appoint judges, in consultation with judiciary.
- c. In 1993, Supreme Court reinterpreted 'consultation' and established a collegium of senior-most judges with power to make a binding recommendation to President to appoint judges. Some procedural details were added in 1998 in a Presidential reference, clarifying structure and composition of this all-judge collegium, making Indian higher judiciary only self-appointing institution completely excluding elected representatives from process.
- d. As a solution to problems like nepotism, opacity, and corruption in the collegium process, the Modi government passed the **99<sup>th</sup> Amendment**, creating a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) to restructure system of judicial appointment to include elected representatives and other eminent persons. While NJAC was problematic and poorly fleshed out, fundamental idea of involving democratically elected members was sound.
- e. But, in its most self-serving move so far, Supreme Court held both Ninety-Ninth Amendment and NJAC Act unconstitutional for violating basic structure. Currently, a memorandum written by judiciary outlines procedure to appoint judges, lacking any constitutional procedure or oversight.
- f. The circumstances that led to **104 formal amendments** and **hundreds of amendments by interpretation** can make one dismal. But Constitution has survived seven decades despite many assaults by Parliament and judiciary.
- g. Indians may not always know all procedural details of this lengthy and imperfect document, but they know core - that they are not governed by whims of political avarice, but words of Constitution. And that is worth celebrating on Republic Day.

## TOPIC 16. URBANISATION

1. A recent estimate put out by The Economist magazine claims that **three of the world's 10 fastest-growing cities (by population, based on 2015-20 projections) are in India.**
2. All three—Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kollam—are in the state of Kerala. This is intriguing. As per the 2011 Census, Kerala had the lowest decadal population growth rate in the country at 4.6%. That is unlikely to have changed by any significant degree in the years since. Hence, Kerala is, quite literally, the last state in the country that should be the site of urban growth driven by a population boom.
3. There are two other reasons that could be driving **urban growth in Kerala** and, particularly, in these regions: **high in-migration and high rates of conversion from rural to urban areas.** The last reason seems to be most likely one though.
4. The rapid transformation of India from a country of villages to a country of cities, which is still officially unacknowledged, is at the heart of the Kerala mystery. Essentially, overwhelming factor is not that more people are being born. **The perceived boundaries of certain cities, known as urban agglomeration, that includes densely built-up areas outside the official municipal boundary, is expanding.** And fast.
5. In several parts of country, non-farm work already dominates. More than 50% of Kerala's workforce, for example, is engaged in services jobs. These geographies should ideally be recognized as cities. This relatively slow, yet long-awaited, transformation is happening at a much faster pace in some states, such as Kerala.
6. This has implications for how we manage and service these areas—and wide-ranging consequences when it comes to access to economic opportunities and overall quality of life.
7. Cities are, after all, not just densely populated areas within the confines of an arbitrary administrative boundary. They are an agglomeration of firms and workers. Urbanist Alain Bertaud refers to cities as **labour markets.** Hence, **the actual limits of cities may at times go beyond administrative limits.**
8. The Economist, in taking population projections using inhabitants within the urban agglomeration—which includes the area within the municipal limit along with the contiguous built-up areas outside municipal boundaries (which can be identified with the help of satellite images)—also acknowledges this fact.
9. Thus, the growth witnessed in Kerala is on account of areas around municipalities becoming more populous and denser, with residents moving away from non-farm jobs, particularly over the last three decades. This transformation has been showing up in an official category called the **"census town"**.
  - a. Census towns are areas that census classifies as urban because they have more than 5,000 people, a density greater than 400 persons per sq. km, and 75% of male working population in non-agricultural activities.
  - b. However, census towns are governed by rural local bodies (RLBs) or Panchayats.
  - c. Between 2001 and 2011, Kerala added highest number of census towns to its urban settlements and urban agglomeration areas of Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kollam added 37, 38 and 23 census towns, respectively.
  - d. This pattern of growth is occurring in several other states as well.
10. A 2018 study finds that 1,373 of the existing 3,892 census towns share a common boundary with larger cities.
11. This phenomenon of peripheral urbanization is also supported by evidence collected from satellite data that allows us to track built-up area growth over many decades.
12. **Hidden urbanization**
  - a. This raises practical questions of urban governance. Here is the problem: **there is a substantial difference between share of urban population according to 2011 Census and share of urban population that is "administratively" urban, that is, which is governed by an urban local body (ULB).**
  - b. The decision of which places are to be governed by ULBs is taken by state governments, with state municipal Acts providing guidelines. According to the 2011 Census, India is 31% urban, whereas just 26% of the total population is administratively urban. The 5-percentage-point gap between the two definitions accounts for approximately 53 million people, roughly the population of South Korea.
  - c. The problem of exclusion from urban governance does not stop with census towns. Some studies state that the definitions used by India may result in undercounting its urban population. A 2019 paper in the Journal of Asian Economics shows that if we use a population threshold of 5,000, that is, if all areas having more than 5,000 people are classified as urban, India will be 47% urban. And Kerala? It goes from 16% administratively urban as per the 2011 Census to almost 100% urban by this definition.

- d. The 5,000-plus threshold criterion is no more arbitrary than the threefold classification of 5,000-plus population, 400-plus population density, and 75%-plus non-agrarian male workforce that the Census of India has been using since 1961. Ghana and Qatar use the 5,000-plus criteria too.
- e. Moreover, urbanization rates at the state level estimated using the census or 5,000-plus criteria correlate better with indicators like the gross state domestic product or the share of population working in services jobs, compared to urbanization rates estimated using just the administratively urban criteria.

### 13. Why it matters

- a. This matters a great deal. ULBs and RLBs provide very different kinds of goods, services and management. The **73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments** contain **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Schedules** listing powers, authority and responsibilities of Panchayats and ULBs, respectively. Items listed for ULBs and not RLBs include: ***town planning, slum improvement, public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops, solid waste management, building regulations and fire services.***
- b. An urban area governed by a ULB rather than an RLB could potentially benefit from a 147% increase in road length per sq. km, a 128% increase in water storage capacity in kilolitres per capita, a 25% increase in probability of establishing a higher education institution, and an 11% increase in hospital beds per capita.
- c. Even when amenities and services are available in de facto urban areas, quality may be worse than it would have been under a ULB. Roads are a good example. The NYU-UN Habitat Atlas of Urban Expansion measures the quality of roads in several Indian cities in the pre-1990 period compared to peri-urban expansion areas between 1990 and 2014.
- d. The quality drops off sharply due to unplanned nature of growth in peri-urban areas. For instance, average road width in Kozhikode 1990-2014 expansion area was 4.03 metres, compared to 9.84 metres in its pre-1990 area (which was within the municipal boundaries).
- e. Roads are critical in determining efficiency of labour markets since they are primary means by which workers can access jobs and firms can access markets as well as employees. Better quality of roads means workers can potentially access a greater number of jobs in different locations and the catchment area of potential employees for firms increases, which in turn enhances the productivity of cities. Besides, roads not only carry transport but can also house trunk infrastructure like sewerage lines or storm water drains.
- f. While de facto urban areas everywhere may potentially be suffering adverse consequences of being denied a ULB status, de facto urban areas around large cities or big towns are particularly vulnerable because they are under intense pressure from the spillover growth and expansion that comes out of large cities. Imagine outskirts of a Delhi or a Mumbai or a Bengaluru.
- g. People who want to access better-paying jobs that are available within cities or towns may prefer to reside in these peri-urban areas because housing is cheaper. Firms, especially industries, may prefer to locate in peri-urban areas to avoid emission norms and standards.

### 14. the economic fallout

- a. If we compare maps of Kozhikode and its surrounding areas in 1975 and 2014, we can see built-up growth spilling over municipal boundaries into peripheral areas that are governed by Panchayats (see chart).
- b. What happens to growth in neighboring districts? Malappuram is to south of Kozhikode district. In chart, it lies south of dotted line that demarcates Kozhikode district. It is evident that in 2014, urban growth was contiguous across 2 districts, traversing municipalities, census towns and Panchayats.
- c. It makes case for looking at areas with large populations and contiguous built-up areas as a single large city or metropolitan area, rather than separate towns and villages, as they may already be functioning as a unified urban area.
- d. All of this isn't just about playing long game by giving people local administrations they need to improve their lives and boost growth. There are immediate potential gains for cash-strapped governments too. ULBs have greater revenue raising powers than RLBs.
- e. A 2011 report on India's municipal finances estimated that ULBs raised about 8.5 times more tax revenues than Panchayats. More ULB governance, therefore, will mean increased revenues. This could set up a virtuous cycle with ULBs spending that revenue on providing more and better goods and services, thus boosting growth and productivity which feeds into higher revenue.
- f. Of course, governance in India is never exactly simple. The challenge is that even existing ULBs do not spend enough on basic goods and services. India's municipal funding as a share of gross domestic product is among lowest globally at 1.9%. The high-powered expert committee report on urban infrastructure and services found that ULBs spend only around 28% of what is needed for efficient management of services.

- g. So, why aren't we even taking first step of recognizing more of India as urban? Losing access to centrally sponsored schemes that are targeted at rural areas, like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, is one of main reasons why rural political leaders as well as rural residents resist conversion from RLBs to ULBs. Anecdotal evidence and qualitative research also throw light on other reasons for resisting conversion - fear among residents that they may have to pay higher taxes, say, or fear among local politicians that they may lose power and access.
- h. Given these entrenched fears, ensuring that places get governance set-ups most appropriate for them is a major policy conundrum. If policymakers get solutions right, benefits will go far beyond pride of place on an Economist graph.

**mint  
SHORT  
STORY**

**WHAT**

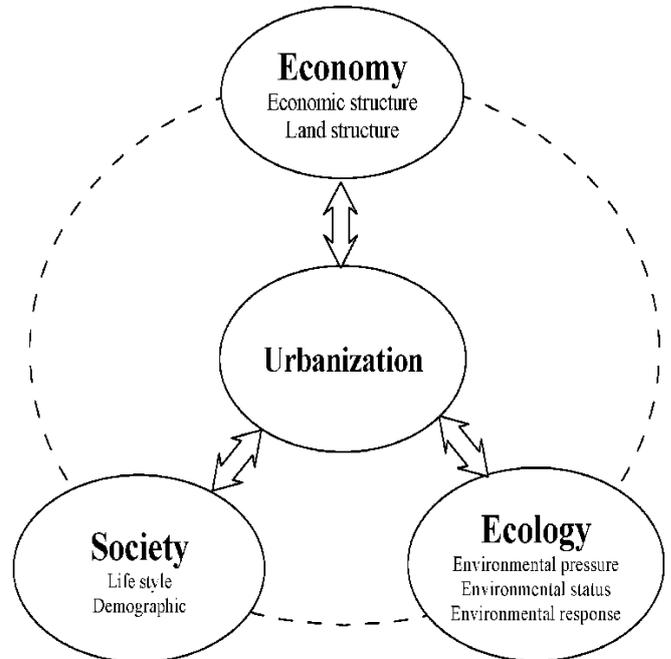
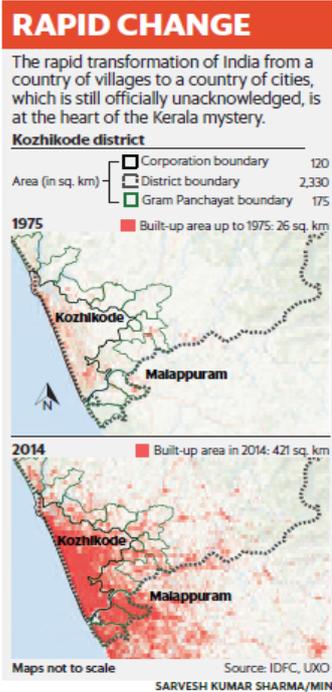
Malappuram in Kerala recently made it to the top of a list of the world's fastest growing cities. Since the state has a low birth rate, the surprising finding has created a controversy.

**BUT**

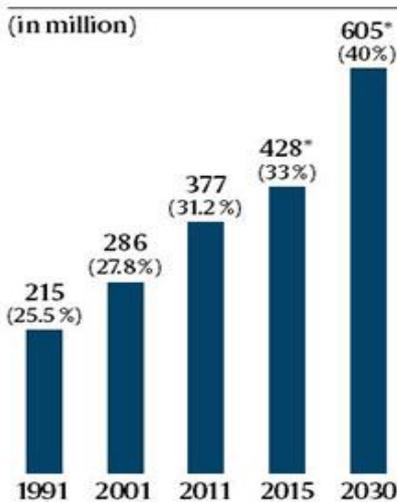
The overwhelming factor is not that more people are being born. The boundary of many cities, or urban agglomeration, that includes areas outside municipal boundary, is expanding fast.

**AND**

This has consequences when it comes to access to economic opportunities and overall quality of life. Urban local bodies raise more money and can also offer services that Panchayats can't.



**URBAN POPULATION**



\*Figures based on UN estimates  
Figures in parenthesis are per cent of total population

**WHY IS HABITAT III SIGNIFICANT**

**IT WILL DEFINE** the contours of urban development for the period 2016-30

**BY 2030**, almost 60 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas

**CITIES IN** developing world will account for 95 per cent of urban expansion in the next decades

**AT PRESENT**, 3.5 billion people, which is half the earth's population, lives in cities. 828 million people live in slums

**CITIES ARE** responsible for 80 per cent of global GDP

**CITIES OCCUPY** just 3 per cent of the earth's land area but are responsible for 60-80 per cent of energy consumption & 75 per cent of carbon emissions

- If all areas having more than 5,000 people are classified as urban, India will be 47% urban. And Kerala? It goes from 16% administratively urban in 2011 Census to almost 100% urban
- Existing urban local bodies do not spend enough on basic goods and services. India's municipal funding as a share of GDP is among the lowest globally—at 1.9%

## TOPIC 17. UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

1. Amid consumption slump, several economists have called on government to “**put money into people’s hands**”. Some have even suggested government to do that literally: **through unconditional, regular payments to citizens as part of a universal basic income (UBI)**. But is implementing UBI financially and administrative feasible? And would it even work?
2. Unlike developed countries, where UBI is being proposed to insulate citizens from disruption of automation, developing countries view it as a measure to boost income and alleviate poverty. In India, idea of a national UBI emerged with 2016-17 Economic Survey. The survey laid out blueprint for a ‘quasi’ UBI, proposing ₹7,620 per year to 75% of population. In 2019 prices, this would cost Indian government around 4.5% of GDP. Since then, others have proposed versions of same concept that differ in scope and cost.
3. Economist Reetika Khera, for instance, has kept **women at centre of her version** suggesting that basic income be 1<sup>st</sup> transferred to **pregnant women, children, widowed, elderly and disabled** before being extended to rest of population.
4. In contrast, Maitreesh Ghatak and Karthik Muralidharan have suggested making **basic income truly universal and unconditional but cap total cost to 1% of GDP**. This results in smaller monthly transfers (₹110 per person per month) but still significant enough to reduce poverty, improve financial inclusion and boost female empowerment.
5. Others have approached UBI as an alternative to existing subsidies and government spending. For instance, International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggested that **if subsidies were eliminated, government could provide all Indians with ₹2,600 (in 2011-12 prices) every month**.
6. Using a similar approach, Mint crunched numbers to estimate costs of various versions of UBI. We find that some versions, such as a pure UBI which provides all Indians with ₹1,215 per month (based on latest estimated poverty line), would be prohibitively expensive (more than 10% of GDP and exceeding centre’s tax revenues).
7. But other versions could be potentially affordable and cost less than 3% of GDP (the potential savings from rolled-back subsidies). The Congress brainchild Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY), for example, which proposes ₹6,000 a month to poorest 20% of households, would cost less than 3% of GDP but would be costly if it had to become universal. Similarly, Economic Survey proposal could be feasible if it is limited to just poor households — but any larger version would quickly become too expensive. (Charts 1a & 1b)
8. All these calculations assume a basic income programme implemented nationally and funded entirely by Centre. But states, too, can take lead. Telangana’s Rhythu Bandhu scheme, for instance, which provides ₹8,000 per acre per year to landholding farmers, preceded current national-level farmer cash transfer scheme (PM Kisan). But for states to implement a larger-scale UBI on their own could be difficult. For instance, a basic income pegged at a state’s poverty line and targeting the state’s poor would eat into state expenditures and poorer states would bear greater burden (e.g. it would cost Bihar nearly 20% of its state GDP). Consequently, almost all proposed UBI programmes have incorporated a cost-sharing mechanism between Centre and state governments. (Chart 2)
9. But even if states and centre do find finances, implementation is a challenge. For a start, **identifying poor in India has been a perennial problem**. Programmes and subsidies designed for poor **often end up being disproportionately used by rich**. An increasingly popular solution is to use data from Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) to exclude obviously ineligible beneficiaries. The Economic Survey’s UBI proposal suggested excluding beneficiaries based on SECC data on asset ownership (e.g. cars or air-conditioners). But even this system is not fool-proof. SECC data, collected in 2011, is now dated but there are also questions around its accuracy.
10. Moreover, **even if the poor are correctly identified, getting money in their hands can be difficult**. Despite a national push to increase the coverage of bank accounts among the poor, usage of bank accounts remains weak. For instance, World Bank’s World Findex Survey found a big gap between account ownership and usage in India. Nearly 80% of adults owned an account in 2017 but almost half of these were inactive. This gap is even higher for poorest 40% of the population. (Chart 3)
11. These fiscal and administrative challenges could explain why there have been only a handful of UBI experiments across world. Many questions about UBI remain unanswered. By definition, any version of UBI will immediately increase incomes but less is known about long-term effects on local markets and economy. Evaluations of other cash transfer programmes, though, hint at the promise of UBI. According to one review, studies across the world have shown that giving people cash does not result in commonly perceived negative effects. When given cash, people do not waste it on alcohol or drugs and neither are they less inclined to work. Instead, they seem to, depending on their circumstances, spend it on different items ranging from food to education to assets. In India,

where **poor face constraints and financial volatility**, a large-scale UBI-type programme may be one way to smoothen consumption, alleviate poverty and give the economy the demand boost it needs.

### MINT GRAPHITI

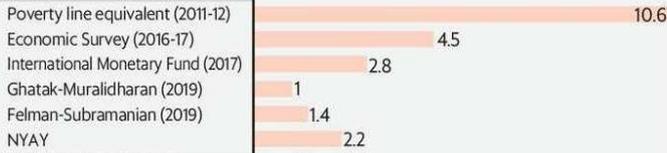
Chart 1a

#### Rollout of recently proposed universal basic income schemes is only affordable if fiscal space is created

As a % of GDP (2019)

UBI cost Food subsidy (PDS) Other Union subsidies MGNREGA and NSAP Centre's farm-related schemes Revenue forgone Centre's gross tax revenue

#### PROPOSED UBI SCHEMES



#### SOURCES OF FUNDING



All UBI amounts are annualized and inflation-adjusted for 2019. The poverty line equivalent UBI assumes ₹816 per month per person (2011-12 prices) based on the Tendulkar Committee. Economic Survey estimates assume ₹7,620 per person per annum for 75% of the population (2016-17 prices). IMF 2017 estimates prescribe ₹2,600 per annum per person (2011-12 prices). Ghatak-Muralidharan (2019) estimates are based on ₹110 per month per person. Felman-Subramanian (2019) estimates are based on ₹8,000 per annum per household for 75% of rural households. Nyuntam Aay Yojana, or NYAY, costs are calculated as ₹6,000 per month for 20% of all households. Centre's farm-related schemes include major schemes such as PM Fasal Bima Yojana and PM Kisan. Union subsidies include explicit subsidies such as fertilizer, interest and railway. NSAP stands for the National Social Assistance Programme. Revised estimates are considered for GDP 2018-19.

Chart 1b

#### Making basic income universal remains a challenge given the high costs

Cost of different variations of UBI (as a % of GDP)

	Poverty line equivalent (2011-12)	Economic survey (2016-17)	IMF (2017)	Ghatak-Muralidharan (2019)	Felman-Subramanian (2019)	NYAY (2019)
Per person	10.58	5.97	2.81	0.96	2.72	10.88
75% of population	7.93	4.47	2.11	0.72	2.04	8.16
All rural population	7.19	4.06	1.91	0.65	1.85	7.40
20% of population	2.12	1.19	0.56	0.19	0.54	2.18
Population below poverty line	2.37	1.33	0.63	0.21	0.61	2.43
Per farmer	2.3	1.3	0.61	0.21	0.59	2.36

Green tiles indicate cost of UBI proposals that can be implemented if subsidies are rolled back ( $\leq 3\%$  of GDP). Yellow tiles indicate programme costs between 3% (subsidy rollback) and 8% (tax revenues). Red tiles indicate cost of proposals which stretch beyond tax collections ( $> 8\%$  of GDP).

Chart 2

#### The burden of UBI transfers is higher for poorer states

UBI cost (poverty line equivalent monthly transfers for rural below poverty line population per state, 2017-18) as a % of gross state domestic product, or GSDP

#### Top 5 states



#### Bottom 5 states



For 25 states arranged in the order of UBI cost. Poverty line and BPL populations in each state were estimated using data from the 75th round of the National Sample Survey (2017-18). GSDP figures are as at 2017-18. Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Union territories are excluded from the analysis.

Source: Tendulkar Committee report; Economic Survey 2016-17, IMF, RBI, Congress manifesto, Census of India, 68th and 75th rounds of the National Sample Survey, budget documents, World Population Prospects (2019, United Nations), CMIE, Global Index Database (2017, World Bank), Agriculture Census 2015-16, Mint calculations.

Chart 3

#### Regular usage of bank accounts remains weak

Adults (in %)



\*Inactive accounts refer to accounts without any deposit and withdrawal in the past year.

#### WHAT IS UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME?

It is a form of social security that involves payments to anyone without work or means of livelihood without conditions.

#### IDEA GAINING GLOBAL CURRENCY

Slow growth not yielding jobs  
UBI can guarantee some income to everyone  
In poor countries, it can address extreme poverty

#### NUMBERS TOO LARGE FOR INDIA

Considering the number of people in India, it is fiscally difficult to offer such a dole in India  
(Number of Poor, in Millions)

403.7 (1993-94)	407.1 (2004-05)	269.3 (2011-12)
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THE ANNUAL COST OF GIVING ₹1,500 A MONTH TO 200 MILLION PEOPLE

# ₹3.6 LAKH CRORE

#### TARGETED APPROACH

IT IS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE INCOME SUPPORT TO A TARGETED POPULATION  
THIS WILL ALLOW MORE FOCUSED ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

#### SECC\* ALLOWS TARGETED INTERVENTION

(in Crores)

Total households	24.49
Rural households	17.97
Households that need no benefits (automatically excluded)	7.07
Identified poor households	0.16
Households that face some deprivation	8.73

\* Socio Economic and Caste Census, 2011

#### HOUSEHOLDS THAT MAY NEED HELP

AUTOMATICALLY INCLUDED	DEPRIVED HOUSEHOLD	TOTAL
0.16	8.73	8.89

WILL BE THE COST IF EVERY DEPRIVED RURAL HOUSEHOLD IS GIVEN ₹1,500 A MONTH

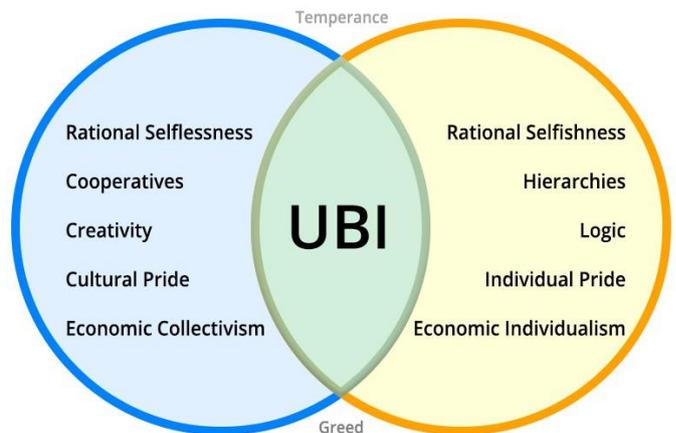
# ₹1.6 LAKH CRORE

#### CASE FOR UBI

Best way of addressing poverty by providing a subsistence dole  
It can help cut down on multiple welfare schemes  
Direct cash transfer will reduce pilferage  
Social inequality will be reduced

#### CASE AGAINST UBI

Too costly for government to implement  
Discourage people from seeking employment  
Temptation to withdraw other benefits

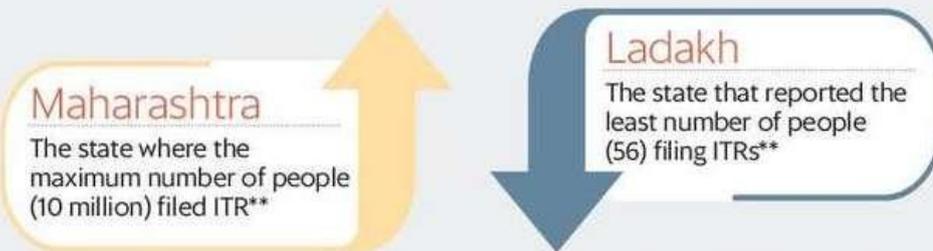


**Tax truths**

**Who pays taxes?**

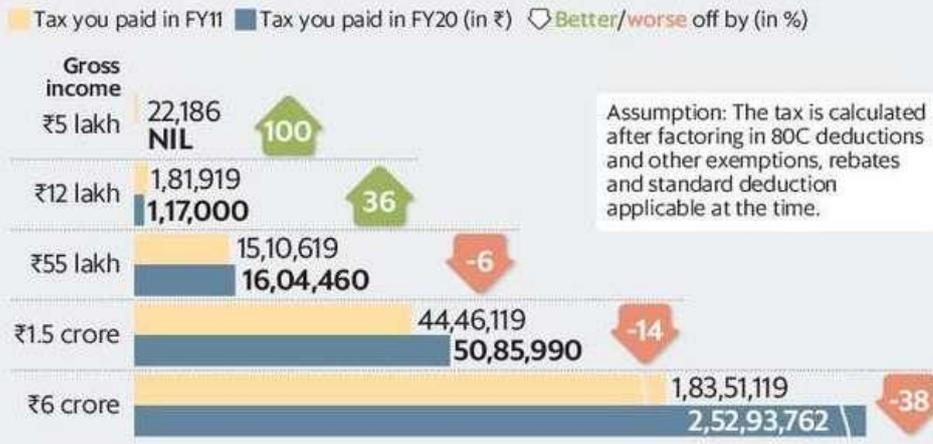


**Tax filers' profile**



\*Out of a population of 1.37 billion, only 58.7 million people filed ITR for AY19. Of this, just 35 million people actually paid taxes; \*\*Till 31 december 2019  
Source: Mint research

**Tax liability over the years**



SANTOSH SHARMA/MINT Source: EY

## FACT 2. DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME

**m** MINT GRAPHITI

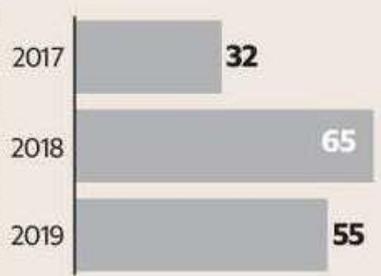
### Going offline

India has documented more than 100 cases of internet blackouts in 2019, costing the economy close to \$1.3 billion, according to a UK-based research firm. Ironically, this comes in the backdrop of the central government giving a major push to link villages and towns with better internet connectivity via its Digital India programme.

#### Number of Internet shutdowns in India



#### Number of internet shutdowns in J&K

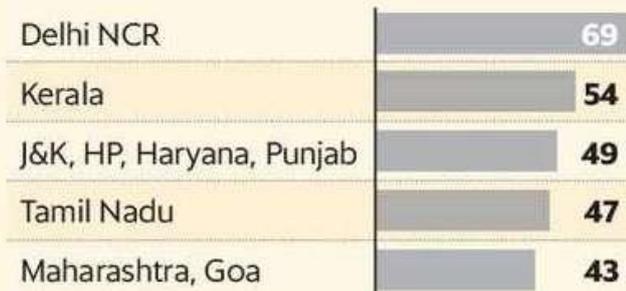


#### Internet usage among Indians\* (in %)



\*Data for 12 years of age

#### Top five states or regions in terms of internet usage (in %)



#### Number of internet users in key cities (in mn)



J&K: Jammu and Kashmir; HP: Himachal Pradesh

Source: Internet Shutdown Tracker; Internet and Mobile Association of India

BARACAIN/MINT



## FACT 4. FOOD INDUSTRIES

# 'Food tech industry to grow to \$8 bn by 2022-end'

The Indian food tech industry is poised to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 25-30 per cent to \$8 billion by the end of 2022, a report by Google and Boston Consulting Group said

### OUTLOOK

Riding on the wave of higher consumption in a growing market and maturing dynamics on the supply side, the industry is set to grow from \$4 billion to \$8 billion in the next three years – a massive 25 per cent growth rate

**EXPONENTIAL GROWTH**  
Funding in the food-tech space has grown by 35 times in the past five years

**DIFFERENCE IN ATTITUDE**  
While delivery charge was the top reason for not ordering food online in metro cities; in tier-I cities, lack of trust in apps (29 per cent) emerged as the primary roadblock



**52%** Peer or network advocacy plays a critical role in drawing people to try online food ordering for the first time

**\$130 bn**  
Overall, online spending in India is expected to grow at 25 per cent over the next five years to cross \$130 billion

**REACH OF FOOD TECH AGGREGATORS** has grown six times from 2017 to 2019. At the same time, consumers are spending more than double the time to explore and order online -- from 32 minutes per month in 2017 to 72 minutes per month in 2019.

**ADVERTISEMENTS** emerged as a strong driver in metros and among the higher income groups

### HURDLES

- Lack of trust in the app
- Delivery charges
- Food quality concerns
- Lack of customisation

### REASONS

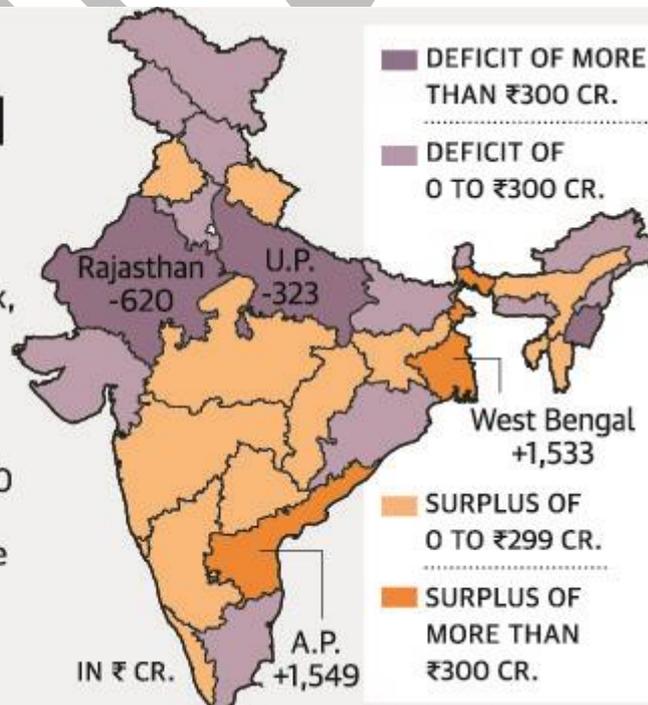
- Rising internet penetration
- Increasing ordering frequency
- Favourable consumer disposition

Source: Google and Boston Consulting Group/PTI

## FACT 5. MNREGA

### Surplus demand

Due to an increase in demand for MGNREGA work, the amount spent by Rajasthan has overshoot the budget by ₹600 crore. 14 other States/U.T. have overshoot the budget as of January 26



## FACT 6. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

# '69% of routine work done by managers will be automated by 2024'

By 2024, artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies such as virtual personal assistants and chatbots will replace almost 69 per cent of the manager's workload, as per Gartner

### OUTLOOK

Currently, managers often need to spend time filling in forms, updating information and approving workflows. By using AI to automate these tasks, they can spend less time managing transactions and can invest more time on learning, performance management and goal setting

**THE ROLE OF MANAGER** will see a complete overhaul in the next four years, said Gartner

### BY 2023,

the number of people with disabilities employed will triple

### REASONS

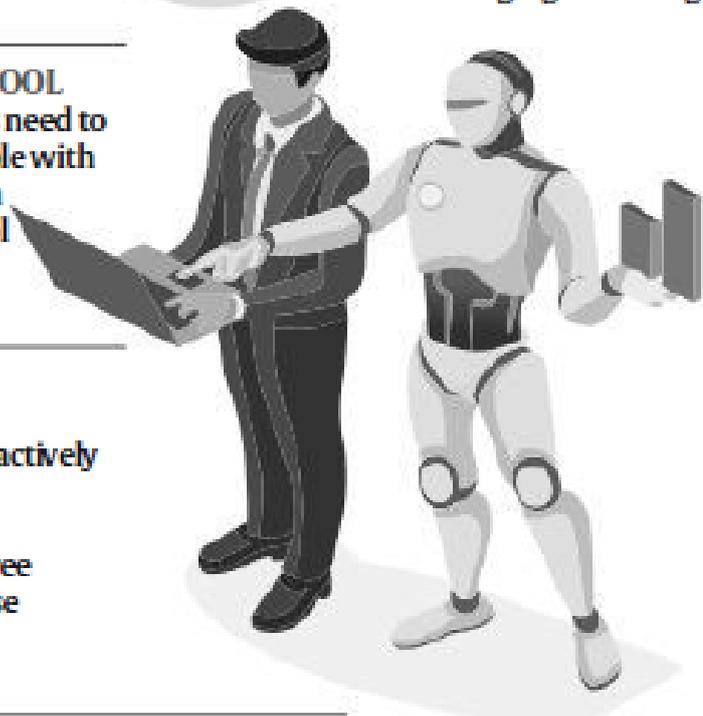
- Artificial intelligence
- Emerging technologies

### SHORTAGE

Enterprises have been experiencing critical talent shortage for several years

### UNTAPPED POOL

Organisations need to consider people with disabilities, an untapped pool of critically skilled talent



### ORGANISATIONS EMPLOYING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Gartner estimates that organisations actively employing people with disabilities have 89 per cent higher retention rates, a 72 per cent increase in employee productivity and a 29 per cent increase in profitability

**AI AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES** will undeniably change the role of the manager and will allow employees to extend their degree of responsibility and influence, without taking on management tasks

**APPLICATION LEADERS** focused on innovation and AI are now accountable for improving worker experience, developing worker skills and building organisational competency in responsible use of AI

**NEARLY 75%** of heads of recruiting reported that talent shortages will have a major effect on their organisations, according to Gartner

Source: Gartner/PTI

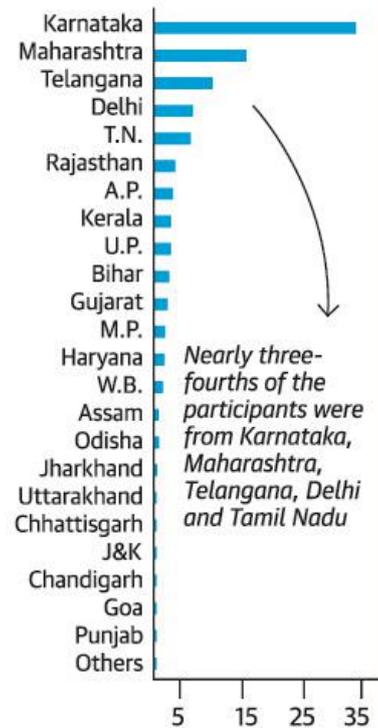
## FACT 7. STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

### Off the starting blocks

The startup ecosystem in India is only concentrated in a few States as of 2019. Startups are involved in diverse sectors ranging from agriculture to health. A significant share of the startups still rely on friends and family for funds. These conclusions are based on a pilot survey on the Indian startup sector conducted between November 2018 and April 2019 by the Reserve Bank of India. By **The Hindu Data Team**

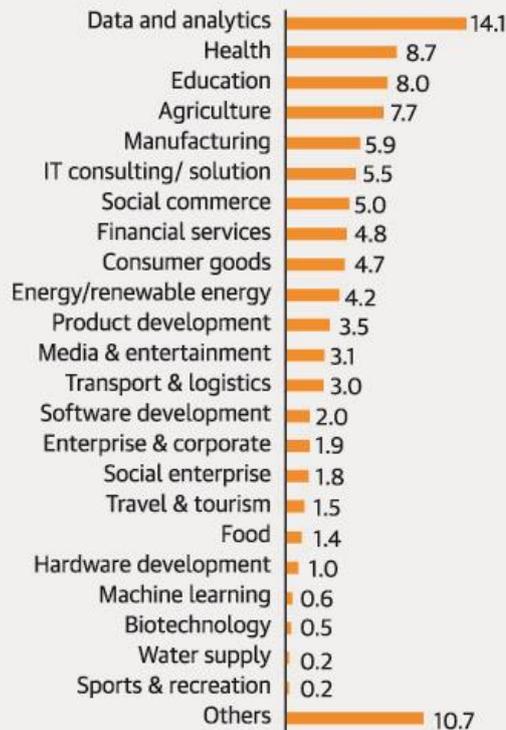
#### Preferred locations

The startup sector is concentrated in a few States. The graph shows the % of startups which participated in the survey. It indicates Karnataka has the highest number of startups



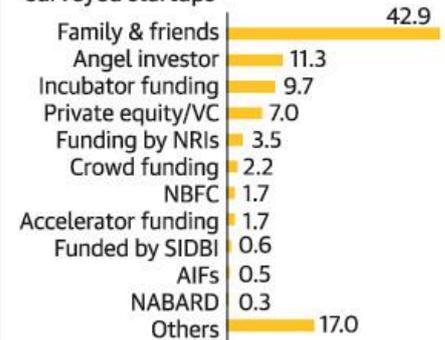
#### Preferred sectors

The data and analytics sector was the most preferred choice for startups by a wide margin followed by health, education and agriculture. The graph shows the % share of sectors among surveyed startups

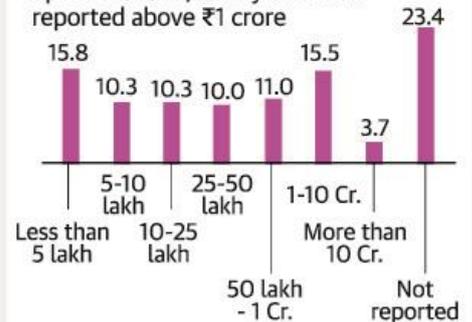


#### Funding sources

Friends and families remain the biggest source of funding for startups. The graph shows the % share of funding source among the surveyed startups



**Income split** | While one-fourth of respondents reported annual turnovers up to ₹10 lakh, nearly one-fifth reported above ₹1 crore



## FACT 8. DEATH PENALTY

# Sexual crimes & capital punishment

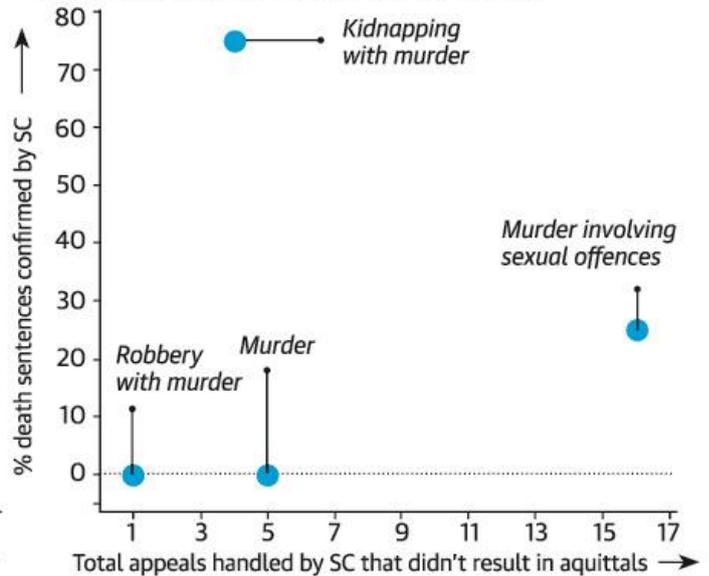
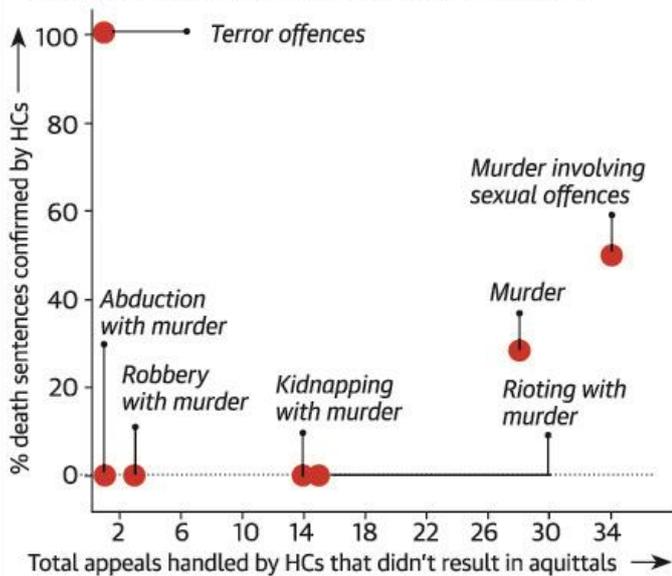
The share of death sentences for cases involving sexual offences has been increasing over the years at the level of trial courts. Even at the High Courts and Supreme Court level, in 2019, a significant share of death sentences involving sexual offences were upheld. By **Srravya C**

**Nature of offence** | In 2019, 102 death sentences were passed by trial courts, the lowest in the last four years. However, there has been a surge in the share of death sentences among sexual offence cases. For instance, of the 150 death sentences in 2016, only 18% involved a sexual offence. However, this jumped to 53% in 2019

Year	Death sentences	Cases involving sexual offence	Murder cases	Terror cases	Abduction with murder	Rioting with murder	Others
2016	150	18.0	32.7	3.3	15.3	26.0	4.7
2017	108	39.8	19.4	4.6	13.0	16.7	6.5
2018	162	41.4	22.2	3.1	11.7	9.9	11.7
2019	102	52.9	27.5	8.8	4.9	0.0	5.9

**Appeals in HC** | In 2019, the High Courts confirmed the death sentences of 50% of prisoners charged with 'murder involving sexual offences'. Only terror offences saw a higher confirmation %. However, cases involving sexual offences saw a significantly higher number of appeals

**Appeals in SC** | In 2019, the Supreme Court confirmed the death sentences of 25% of prisoners charged with 'murder involving sexual offences'. Only 'kidnapping with murder' cases saw a higher confirmation %. However, cases involving sexual offences saw a higher number of appeals



Source: 'Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics 2019' published by the Project 39A at NLU Delhi

## FACT 9. GLOBAL TALENT COMPETITIVE INDEX

# Global Talent Competitiveness Index: India at 72nd spot

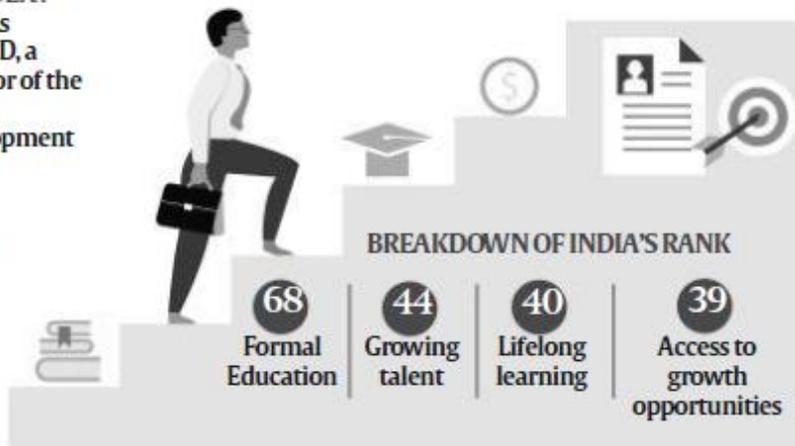
India has moved up eight places to the 72nd position in the 2020 Global Talent Competitiveness Index that measures and ranks countries based on their ability to grow, attract and retain talent

### WHAT IS THIS INDEX?

The GTCI report was launched by INSEAD, a partner and sponsor of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Tent

### OTHERS IN BRICS

- 42 China
- 48 Russia
- 70 South Africa
- 80 Brazil



**THE HIGHEST-RANKED SUB-PILLAR** is employability for India, but the ability to match labour market demand and supply stands in contrast to the country's poor "mid-level skills", which result in a mediocre score in vocational and technical skills

### OUTLOOK

The report added India's GTCI score and GDP per capita are both lower than the corresponding medians of its other emerging market economies such as BRICS – Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa

### CHALLENGES

- Weak ability to attract and retain talent
- Strengthening role of minorities and women

### THE TOP 10

- 1 Switzerland
- 2 The US
- 3 Singapore
- 4 Sweden
- 5 Denmark
- 6 The Netherlands
- 7 Finland
- 8 Luxembourg
- 9 Norway
- 10 Australia

Source: INSEAD/PTI

## FACT 10. APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE

### THE WIDENING SCOPE OF APIS

Governments, regulators, industry bodies and companies across the world have been using open application programming interface (APIs) to encourage innovation, boost financial inclusion and customer convenience.

howindialives.com

#### OPEN BANKING AROUND THE WORLD

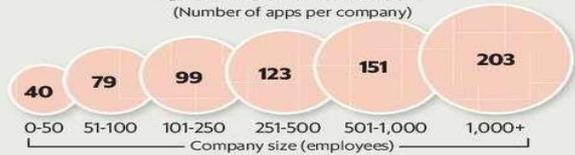
Government regulations in some countries have pushed for the use of APIs and sharing of data to build better financial and banking products

 <b>India</b>	 <b>UK</b>	 <b>US</b>
<p>Unified payments interface (UPI), which does a billion transactions a month through apps such as Bhim, and Google Pay, are examples of open APIs.</p>	<p>UK's Competition and Markets Authority requires the nine biggest banks to give access to banking data and payment initiation to licensed startups.</p>	<p>Open banking here is driven mostly by market forces. The US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau encourages banks to share data, but it's not enforced.</p>
 <b>Japan</b>	 <b>Mexico</b>	 <b>Singapore</b>
<p>Amended Banking Act encouraged banks to open APIs by 2020 to enable digital payments ahead of Olympics, among other things.</p>	<p>Fintech law that came into effect in March 2018 mandates open banking, and is driven by need for financial inclusion.</p>	<p>Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Association of Banks encourage banks to share APIs through conferences, events, publications.</p>

#### THE LARGER THE COMPANY, THE MORE APPLICATIONS THEY USE

APIs are used to solve a variety of problems. As the number of apps grows, APIs act as a bridge that allows data to pass from one program to another.

As companies take on more staff and grow, they need more apps  
(Number of apps per company)

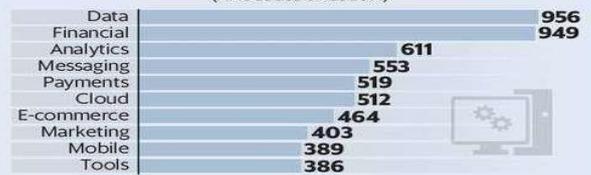


Source: 2019 SaaS Trends report, Blissfully

#### THE FASTEST GROWING API CATEGORIES

Data and financial APIs are the fastest growing categories, while other segments such as messaging, marketing and mobile are picking up.

Most popular categories  
(APIs added since 2014)



Source: Programmableweb.com

#### SOCIAL AND MAPPING APIS LEAD THE PACK

While regulations have played an important role in the growth of APIs, the most popular ones are from platforms that have achieved huge scale.



Note: up to September 2017

Source: Programmableweb.com

howindialives.com is a database and search engine for public data

## MODEL ANSWER

Q 1. "Uniform civil code is an important step for national integration and fulfilling constitutional objectives" Critically Comment. [ 12.5 Marks, 200 words]

a. **UNDERSTANDING KEYWORDS**

- Uniform Civil Code
- National Integration
- Constitutional Objectives

b. **WAY OF WRITING (STRUCTURE)**

- Critically Comment
  - Balance - comment on both [+/-] the aspects
  - Cover all dimensions

## ANSWER

### Introduction

- Uniform civil code is set of common rules and regulation governing all civil matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption, property inheritance etc.
- Article 44 of Indian constitution mention "government will try to implement uniform civil code"



### Body

- Uniform civil code will help in national integration in following manner
  1. It will bring all the citizen at par with each other in civil matters only and in other matters such as culture or religious ceremonies diversity will prevails
  2. It will help in arresting sub nationalism feeling such as communalism, casteism, regionalism etc.
  3. Decrease influence of non-state actors
  4. Radical view in one religion or community is used as excuse for development of radical view in other religion.
- Uniform civil code will help in Constitutional objectives in following manner
  1. SECULARISM – state will equally regulate exploitative practice in all religion
  2. EQUALITY – all religion or communities will be governed by same law
  3. GENDER EQUALITY and JUSTICE – will give equal rights to both male, females and transgender.
  4. RULE OF LAW – uniform civil code will be based on rational, humanistic and scientific principles rather than any conservative approach such as religious dogmas or myth.

### Conclusion

- Uniform civil code should be framed and implemented by countering false information spread by religious conservatives such as UCC will affect religious ceremonies and removing fear from minorities that majoritarian culture will be imposed on them.