

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 03 October, 2025



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RAJASTHAN



Cooperative Membership Campaign – 2025



Why in News?

- On October 2, 2025, the Chief Minister launched the 'Cooperative Membership Campaign-2025' from the Constitution Club, Jaipur.

सहकार सदस्यता अभियान 2-15 अक्टूबर, 2025

अभियान के अंतर्गत किए जाने वाले प्रमुख कार्य

KVSS, सहकारी भण्डार, डेयरी सहकारी समितियों, पैक्स में युवाओं और महिलाओं के लिए विशेष सदस्यता अभियान

नवीन पैक्स के गठन हेतु प्रस्ताव, सदस्यता राशि प्राप्त करना तथा स्वीकृति जारी करना

प्रस्तावित नवीन सहकारी कानून के प्रमुख प्रावधानों की जानकारी जनसाधारण को देना

पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि योजना के तहत लम्बित आवेदनों की ई-केवाईसी एवं आधार सीडिंग का कार्य

भूमिविहीन पैक्स में गोदामों के लिए भूमि आवंटन की कार्यवाही



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Key Points:

- **Campaign Event:** October 2 to 15, 2025.
- **Organizer:** Cooperative Department, Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** Under this campaign, activities such as the formation of new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), membership enhancement, inclusion of beneficiaries excluded from the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, land allotment proceedings for landless PACS, etc. will be undertaken.
- Under the Cooperative Membership Campaign, camps will be organized at the level of more than 8,200 PACS in the state. During this period, special focus will be placed on connecting women and youth with cooperative societies.

Other Important Points:

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

- Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) are village-level cooperative credit societies in India, serving as the final link in the three-tier cooperative credit structure of State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) at the state level.
- Currently, approximately 100,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) are operational across the country. Since PACS are cooperative bodies, individual farmers can also be members of a PACS, and a village can have multiple PACS.

Facts for Prelims:

Cooperative Movement in Rajasthan:

- The cooperative movement in Rajasthan began in Ajmer in 1904.
- **1904:** The British Indian government passed the Cooperative Credit Societies Act. Subsequently, on October 25, 1905, the state's first cooperative society was established in Bhinay (Ajmer).

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- **1904:** The state's first cooperative agricultural bank was established in Deeg (Bharatpur).
- **1910:** The first central cooperative bank was established in Ajmer.

Major cooperative institutions in Rajasthan:

Name of Institution	Establishment	Headquarters
Rajasthan State Cooperative Bank Limited (Apex Bank)	1953	Jaipur
Rajasthan State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (RAJFED)	1957	Jaipur
Rajasthan State Oilseeds Producers Cooperative Federation (Tilam Sangh)	1990	Jaipur
Rajasthan Institute of Cooperative Education and Management (RICEM)	1990	Jaipur
Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited (RCDF)	1977	Jaipur
Rajasthan State Cooperative Consumer Federation Limited, Jaipur (CONFED)	1967	Jaipur
Rajasthan State Cooperative Land Development Bank Limited	1957	Jaipur

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67th Foundation Day of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI)



Why in News?

- The 67th Foundation Day of the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) was celebrated on October 1, 2025.

CAZRI : काजरी

Central Arid Zone Research Institute

केन्द्रीय शुष्क क्षेत्र अनुसंधान संस्थान



Key Points:

- **Established:** 1959, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- **Headquarters:** Jodhpur.
- **Regional Research Stations:** Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Pali, Jalore, and Bhuj (Gujarat).
- **Main Objective:** Research for sustainable agriculture, conservation of natural resources, and improvement of rural livelihoods in arid and semi-arid regions.

Key Areas of Work:

- **Land and water conservation** – preventing soil erosion and efficient water use in desert areas.

- **Botanical research** – development of water-efficient crops, fodder production, and horticultural practices.
- **Animal Husbandry Research** – Breed improvement and management of arid-zone animals such as camels, sheep, goats, etc.
- **Technology Development** – Irrigation technology, rainwater harvesting, and solar energy-based equipment for desert areas.
- **Climate Research** – Studying the impact of climate change in deserts.

Facts for Prelims:

Arid Forest Research Institute (AFRI)

- **Established** in 1988, under the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.
- **Headquarters:** Jodhpur.
- **Field of Work:** Research related to forestry and ecology of arid and semi-arid regions.
- AFRI conducts specialized research on species such as Khejri, Rohida, Ber, Khair, Babul, and Arudu.

Other Important Points:

- **Tharshhobha Khejri:** An improved thornless Khejri variety developed by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur.
- **Moth 4:** A new moth variety developed by the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur. This variety is capable of providing farmers with good yields even in low rainfall conditions. Even if there is no rain for 40 days after sowing, this variety can yield 5 to 6 quintals per hectare.

'Meri Policy Mere Hath' Abhiyan: State-Level Launch



Why in News?

- On October 1, 2025, Agriculture Minister Dr. Kirori Lal inaugurated the state-level 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' Abhiyan for the year 2025, from Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur.



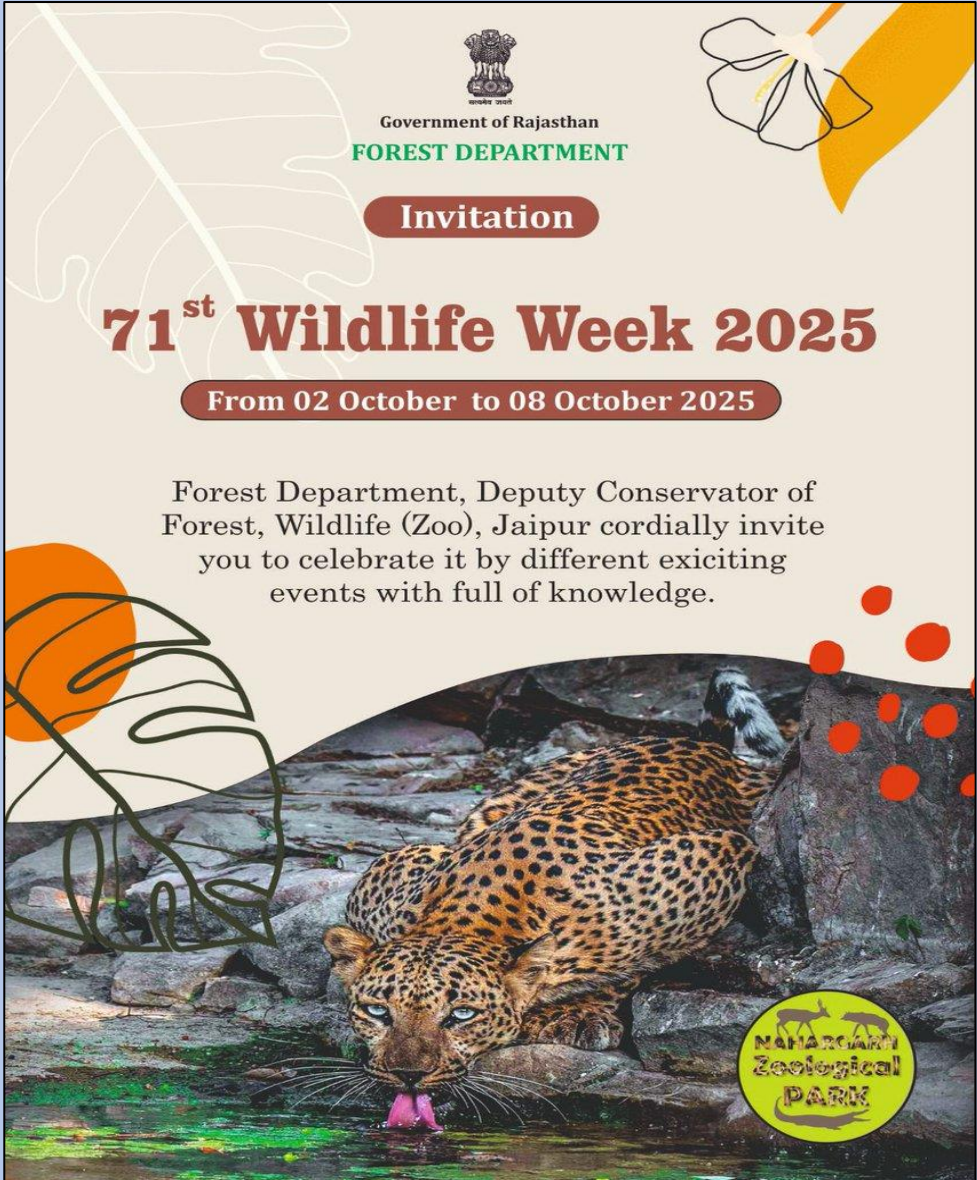
Key Points:

- This campaign is being implemented in the state under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.
- According to the Agriculture Department, Rajasthan, 87.1 million insurance policies for Kharif 2025, have been issued across the country, of which 21.6 million (approximately 25 percent) are from Rajasthan.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana:

- **Launch:** The 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' was launched by the Central Government on February 18, 2016, with the aim of providing comprehensive protection against crop losses due to unforeseen natural calamities.
- **Main objective:** To provide financial assistance to farmers suffering from crop loss/damage due to natural calamities such as hailstorms, drought, floods, cyclones, heavy and unseasonal rains, diseases and pest attacks, etc.
- **Premium:** Farmers pay affordable premiums – 2 percent for Kharif crops, 1.5 percent for Rabi crops, and 5 percent for annual commercial or horticultural crops.
- In January 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) till the financial year 2025-26 with a total budget of ₹69,515.71 crore.
- The Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is a weather index-based scheme launched along with the PMFBY. The basic difference between PMFBY and RWBCIS is in the method of calculating admissible claims for farmers.

✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	<p>71st Wildlife Conservation Week</p>  <p>■ The Rajasthan Forest Department is celebrating the 71st Wildlife Conservation Week from October 2 to 8, 2025.</p> <p>■ Inauguration: Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Dr. T. Mohanraj, from Nahargarh Biological Park, Jaipur.</p>

2. Rajasthan Represents the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference



- Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani will represent Rajasthan at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference to be held in Barbados.
- The 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference will be held in the Caribbean country of Barbados from October 5 to 12, 2025.

3. Sub-Junior National Ball Badminton Championship: Rajasthan Wins Bronze Medal

- **Held:** September 24 to 28, 2025, in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.
- Rajasthan's sub-junior boys team won the bronze medal by defeating Maharashtra in the doubles event.
- Yatharth Jariwal in the sub-junior boys category and Vibha Saini in the senior women category were selected as the best upcoming players.

4.	<p>69th State Level Secondary and Higher Secondary School (U-17) Football Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Held: Kota.■ Inaugurated by: Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar.
5.	<p>69th State Level Hockey (U-14) Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Held: Siwana (Balotra).■ Inaugurated by: Parliamentary Affairs, Law and Legislative Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel and Minister of State for Industry, Youth Affairs and Sports K.K. Bishnoi.
6.	<p>69th State-Level Boxing Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Held: Topada, Ajmer.■ Inaugurated by: Devnarayan Board Chairman Om Prakash Bhadana.
7.	<p>69th Sepak Takraw (U-17 and 19) State-Level Sports Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Held: October 1 to 7, 2025.■ Venue: Kharchi (Marwar Junction), Pali.
8.	<p>Vanasthali Vidyapeeth Selected for Seva Parv 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Vanasthali Vidyapeeth (Niwai, Tonk) of Rajasthan was selected for Seva Parv 2025 by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).■ Establishment: This university was founded in the year 1935, by freedom fighters and educationists Hiralal Shastri and Ratan Shastri.■ Approach to Education: The institute's education is based on the principle of 'Panchmukhi Shiksha', which focuses on the holistic development of the individual.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Seva Parv 2025 program, supported by the Ministry of Culture, will inspire youth to express India's development aspirations through art.
9.	<p>Run for Quality: BIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Rajasthan, organized a "Run for Quality" at Swami Keshwanand Institute of Technology Management and Rural Development (SKIT), Jaipur, to commemorate World Standards Day 2025.■ World Standards Day is celebrated globally on October 14th every year.
10.	<p>132nd National Dussehra Fair: Included in the Asia Book of Records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, the 132nd National Dussehra Fair held in Kota was included in the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records.■ India's largest effigy of Ravana, measuring 233 feet, was burned at this fair, setting a record.
11.	<p>Vishnu Sharma and Yash Yadav: Medals at the Senior National Ranking Judo Tournament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, Vishnu Sharma and Yash Yadav of Rajasthan won silver and bronze medals, respectively, at the Senior National Ranking Judo Tournament.■ Weight category: 100 kg■ Event: September 29 to October 2, 2025, in New Delhi.



INTERNATIONAL



Israel-Gaza Conflict



Why in News?

- The US President has proposed a 20-point peace plan to end the Israel-Gaza conflict.
- The conflict, which has been ongoing for more than two years, began with Hamas's launch of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel.



Key Points:

Historical Context

- **Balfour Declaration (1917):** This declaration, issued by Britain, supported the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.
- This increased tensions, as Jews were a minority in the region and the Arab community was the majority.

Creation of Israel:

- In 1947, the United Nations proposed dividing Palestine between Arabs and Jews. Subsequently, the Jews declared Israeli independence in 1948.
- The Arab community rejected this plan, resulting in several wars.
- **The 1967 Middle East War:** Nearly one million Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem came under Israeli control.
- The 1973 Yom Kippur/Ramadan War resulted in the Camp David Accords of 1978, the first instance of an Arab country recognizing Israel as a nation.
- Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1979. However, it remains in control of the West Bank.

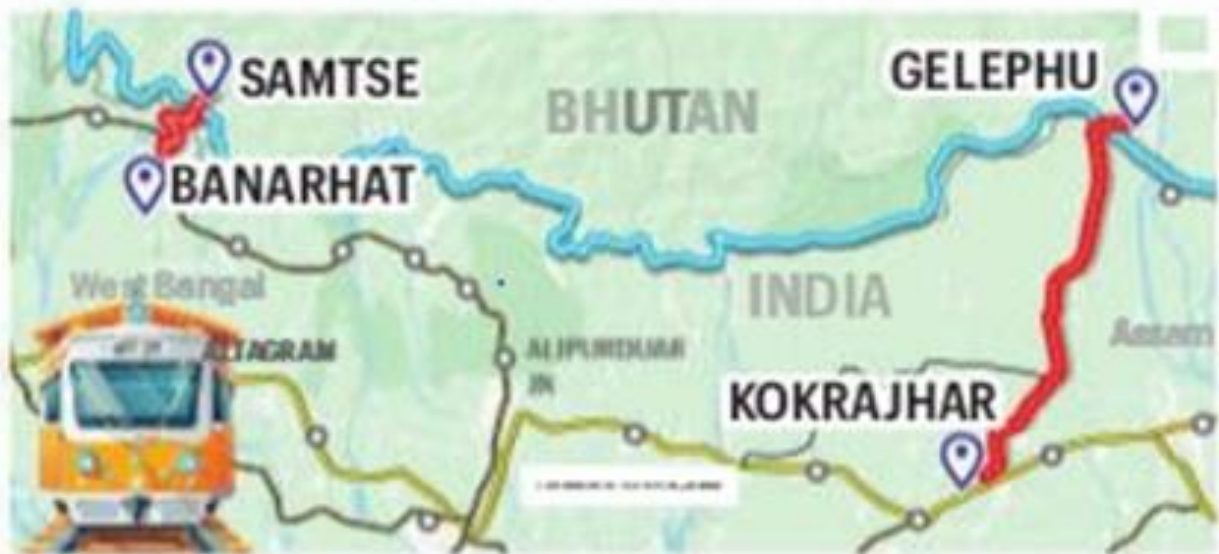
India-Bhutan Railway Link Project



Why in News?

- India has announced two cross-border railway projects to enhance connectivity with Bhutan.
- These include the Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu (Bhutan) railway line and the Banarhat (West Bengal)-Samtse (Bhutan) railway line.

THE TWO NEW RAIL LINES



Key Points:

- Improved connectivity to Bhutan's Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) will provide opportunities for sustainable economic development for both countries.
- Gelephu Mindfulness City is a Special Administrative Region (SAR). It operates under the "one country, two systems" concept with greater autonomy.

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- Samtse is a major industrial city in Bhutan. Rail connectivity will boost trade. Exports of dolomite, quartzite, etc. from Bhutan will be promoted.
 - **Development Assistance:** India has committed development assistance of ₹10,000 crore for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-2029), double the assistance provided in the previous plan (12th).
 - **This assistance is spread across four categories:**
 1. Project-Based Assistance (PTA)
 2. Economic Stimulation Programme (ESP)
 3. High-Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP)
 4. Grants in the form of general budgetary support
- Other Key Points:**
- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. About 80% of Bhutan's total trade is with India.
 - The two countries have cooperated on five major hydropower projects, including Chukha, Tala, Mangdechhu, Kurichhu, and the recently completed Puntsangchhu-II.

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Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)



Why in News?

- The India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) came into effect on October 1, 2025.

भारत के प्रमुख व्यापार समझौते

पड़ोसी देशों के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (FTA)

- ④ भारत-श्रीलंका FTA
- ④ भारत-नेपाल व्यापार संधि
- ④ व्यापार, वाणिज्य और पारगमन पर भारत-भूटान समझौता

भारत के क्षेत्रीय मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA)

- ④ भारत आसियान वस्तु व्यापार समझौता (11): 10 आसियान देश + भारत
- ④ दक्षिण एशिया मुक्त व्यापार समझौता (7): भारत, पाकिस्तान, नेपाल, श्रीलंका, बांग्लादेश, भूटान और मालदीव
- ④ व्यापार प्राथमिकताओं की वैश्विक प्रणाली (41 देश + भारत)

भारत का CECA और CEPA

CECA/CEPA मुक्त व्यापार समझौते से अधिक व्यापक है, जो नियामक, व्यापार एवं आर्थिक पहलुओं को व्यापक रूप से संबोधित करता है, CEPA में सेवाओं, निवेश आदि समेत व्यापक क्षेत्र है, जबकि CECA मुख्य रूप से टैरिफ और TQR दरों के समझौते पर केंद्रित है।

- ④ संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, दक्षिण कोरिया, जापान के साथ CEPA
- ④ सिंगापुर, मलेशिया के साथ CECA

मुक्त व्यापार समझौता देशों के बीच एक व्यापक समझौता है, जो विशिष्ट उत्पादों और सेवाओं को छोड़कर एक नकारात्मक सूची (negative list) के साथ अधिमान्य व्यापार शर्तों और टैरिफ रियायतों की पेशकश करता है।

अन्य:

- भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया आर्थिक सहयोग और व्यापार समझौता (ECTA)
- भारत-थाईलैंड अल्टी हावैस्ट स्कीम (EHS)
- भारत-मॉरिशस व्यापक आर्थिक सहयोग और साझेदारी समझौता (CECPA)

एक अल्टी हावैस्ट स्कीम (EHS) FTA/CECA/CEPA से पहले होता है, जहाँ समझौता करने वाले देश टैरिफ उदारीकरण के लिये उत्पादों का चयन करते हैं, व्यापक व्यापार समझौतों का मार्ग प्रशस्त करते हैं और आत्मविश्वास को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

अधिमान्य व्यापार समझौते (PTA)

PTA में भागीदार सहमत टैरिफ सीमाओं पर शुल्क कम करके, कम या शून्य टैरिफ के लिये पात्र उत्पादों की एक सकारात्मक सूची बनाए रखते हुए विशिष्ट उत्पादों तक अधिमान्य पहुँच प्रदान करते हैं।

एशिया प्रशांत व्यापार समझौता (APTA):

बांग्लादेश, चीन, भारत, दक्षिण कोरिया, लाओ PDR, श्रीलंका और मंगोलिया

SAARC अधिमान्य व्यापार समझौता (SAPTA): SAFTA के समान

भारत-MERCOSUR PTA: ब्राजील, अर्जेंटीना, उरुग्वे, पैराग्वे और भारत



Key Points:

- It includes commitments to generate \$100 billion in investment and 1 million direct jobs in India over the next 15 years.

- **EFTA Member States:** These include Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. Switzerland is India's largest trading partner.



- This is the first Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed by India that specifically includes binding commitments related to investment and job creation.

Key Points of TEPA:

- **Market Access (Goods):** Under this agreement, EFTA will provide barrier-free access to its extensive market. This includes opening the market to 100% of India's non-agricultural products.
- **Services and Mobility:** This agreement will boost exports in education, IT, and business services.
- The agreement provides enhanced services trade access through WTO Mode 1, Mode 3, and Mode 4.

- o **Mode 1:** Digital delivery of services
- o **Mode 3:** Commercial presence (a company from one country establishing a branch in another country to supply services)
- o **Mode 4:** Entry and temporary stay of personnel from other countries for the delivery of services.
- **Chemicals and Allied Products:** EFTA has proposed zero or reduced tariffs on over 95% of India's exports. India has been granted market access on approximately 80 percent of products (tariff lines), covering 95% of EFTA exports.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** This agreement ensures commitment to TRIPS standards. India's interests related to generic medicines and the "evergreening" of patents have been addressed.
- This is expected to strengthen initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

UN Sustainable Development Goals: 10 Years Completed



Why in News?

- Ten years have passed since the adoption of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are also called Global Goals.





Key Points:

Sustainable Development Goals:

- The concept of sustainable development was defined in the year 1987, Brundtland Commission Report. According to it, sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present in a way that future generations are also able to meet their needs.
- These are a set of 17 goals and 169 targets that support the need for a balance between social, economic development, and environmental sustainability.

How has India integrated the SDGs into its development plan?

- **SDG India Index:** This index ranks states and union territories, encouraging improvement through competition.
- **Panchayat Advancement Index:** It is used by over 250,000 village councils.
- Many states have aligned budgets with SDG sub-goals.
- Aspirational District Programme (ADP) for backward areas, and adopting a whole-of-society approach.

India's Progress

- **SDG 1 (Poverty Alleviation):** More than 135 million people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty.
- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** The malnutrition rate is 13.7%.
- **SDG 3 (Improved Health and Well-being):** The maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) has declined from 130 in 2014-16 to 80.5.
- **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** The net enrolment rate at the primary level is now 99.9%.

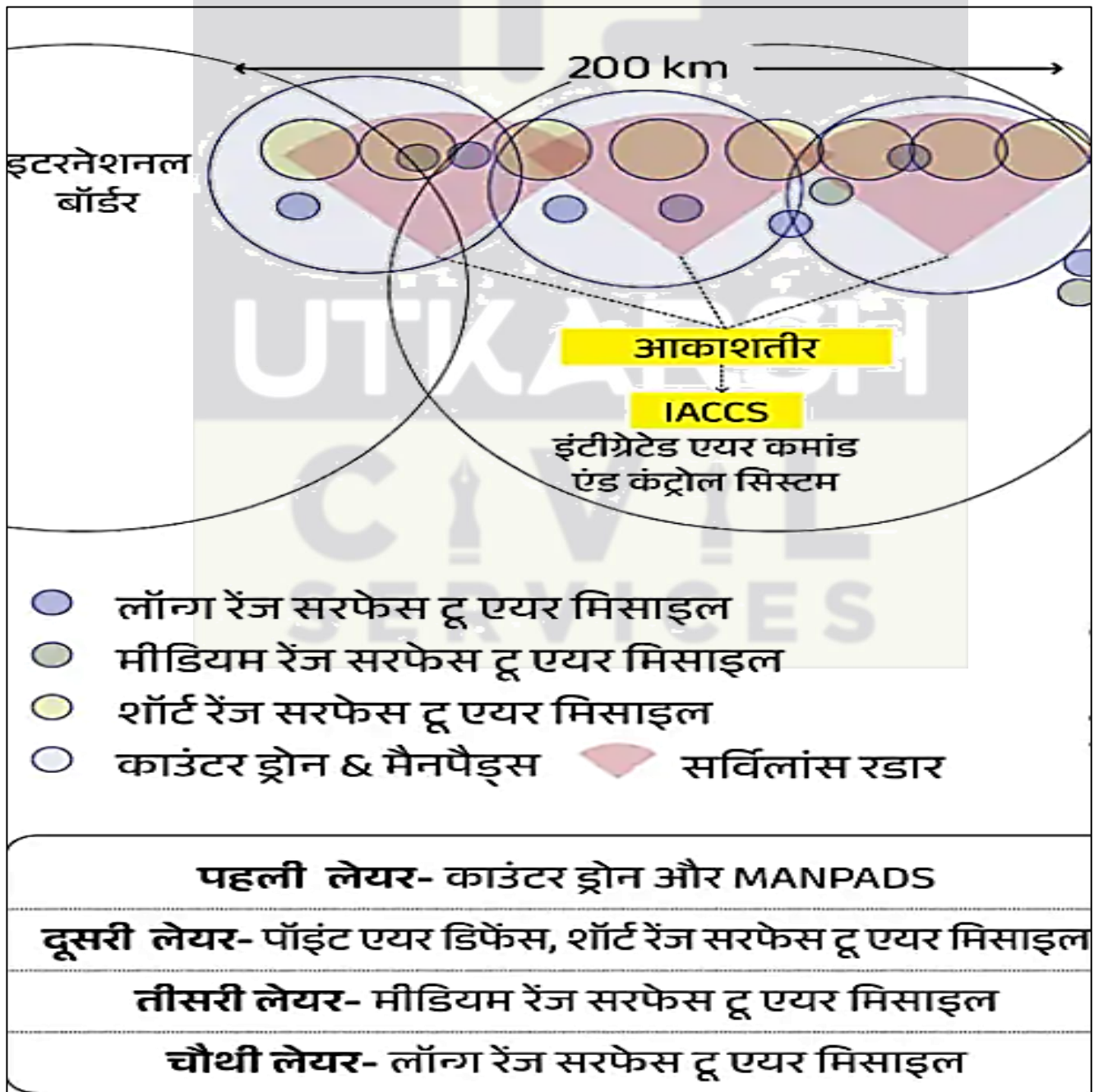
⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ⌚

Ananta Shastra Air Defense System



Why in News?

- The Indian Army has awarded a contract to Bharat Electronics Limited to supply the 'Ananta Shastra' air defense system.





Key Points:

- Ananta Shastra is an indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system.
- **Developed by:** DRDO (Defense Research and Development Organization) in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- It can be quickly moved from one location to another. Its range is approximately 30 kilometers.

Features:

**सरफेस टू एयर मिसाइल
वेपन सिस्टम**


हाईली मोबाइल
(अत्यधिक
गतिशील) एयर
डिफेंस सिस्टम।


30 किमी की रेंज
से टारगेट ट्रैक
करके हिट करने
की क्षमता


पाकिस्तान
और चीन बॉर्डर
पर तैनाती
होगी


शॉर्ट टू मीडियम रेंज
में मीडियम रेंज सरफेस
टू एयर मिसाइल
(MRSAM) और आकाश
मिसाइल सिस्टम का
साथ देगा


शॉर्ट हॉल्ट पर भी
फायरिंग करने
की क्षमता


दिन और रात में
भी टारगेट हिट
करने में सक्षम



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**CIVIL
SERVICES**

Other Key Points:

Other Important Air Defense Systems of India:



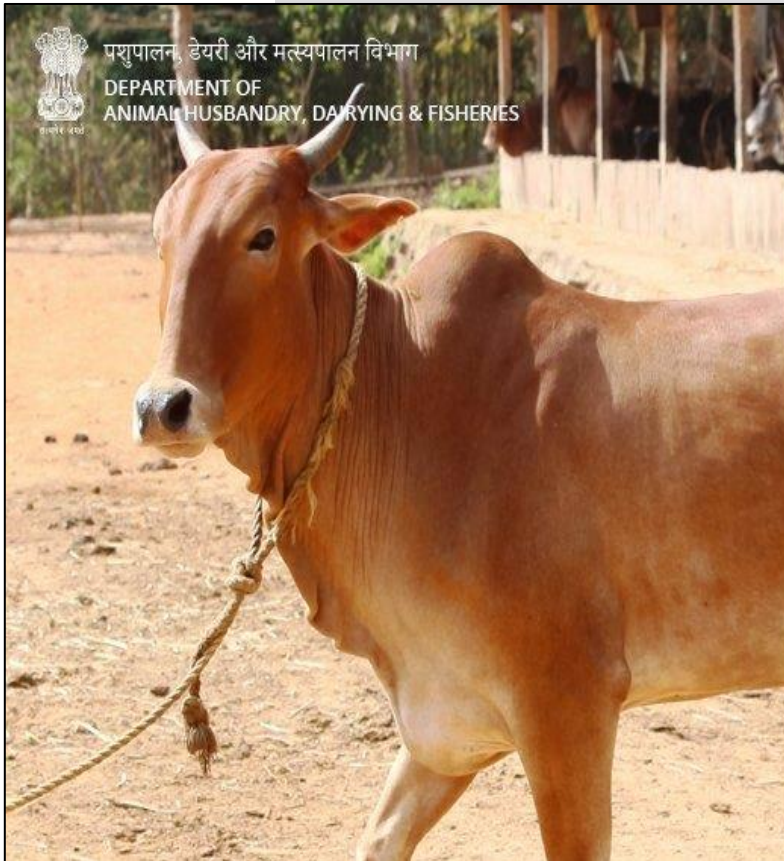
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Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)



Why in News?

- For the first time in India, a glycoprotein E (gE) deleted DIVA marker vaccine has been launched for IBR disease.



INFECTIOUS BOVINE RHINOTRACHEITIS (IBR)

- IBR is viral disease of cattle & buffaloes primarily seen in respiratory and genital form.
- In the respiratory form fever with profuse nasal discharge mouth breathing, salivation and a deep cough and conjunctivitis with profuse lacrimation are the prominent symptoms
- The genital form of the disease causes swollen vulva with small pastules in females and balanoposthitis in males. Abortion during 4-7 months of pregnancy is a common.
- The disease can be prevented by vaccination.



Key Points:

- This vaccine is named 'Raksha-IBR'.
- Raksha-IBR will help alleviate problems associated with IBR disease in animals, such as infertility, abortion, and reduced milk production.

IBR:

- This disease causes inflammation in the upper respiratory tract of animals.
- **Causes:** This disease is spread by infection with bovine herpesvirus-1 (BoHV-1).



ECONOMIC SCENARIO

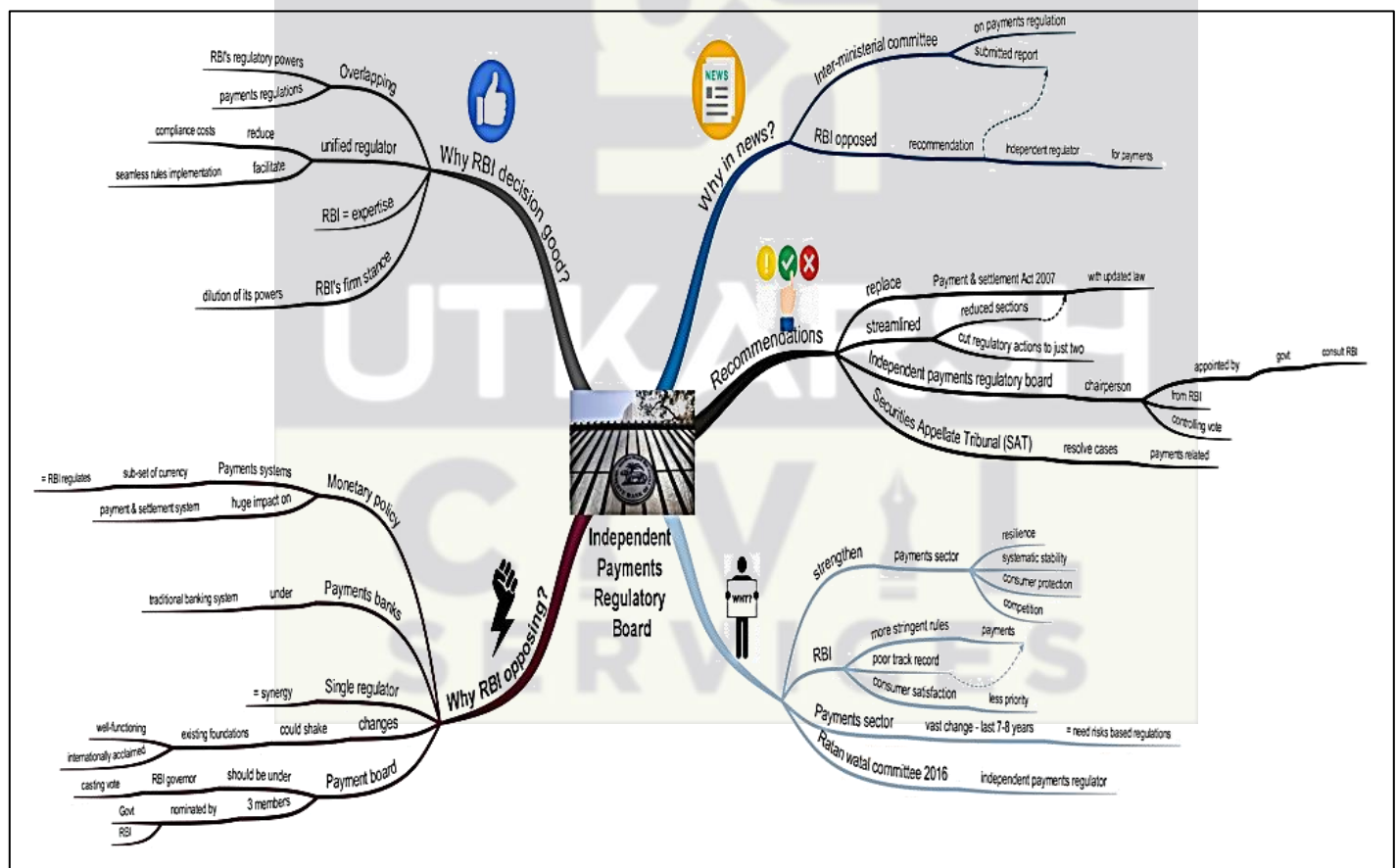


Payment Regulatory Board



Why in News?

- The RBI constituted a six-member Payment Regulatory Board. It will regulate and supervise payment systems under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.



Key Points:

- It replaces the Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).
- **Structure and Composition:** According to Section 3 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act:

- The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the ex-officio Chairperson
 - The Deputy Governor of the RBI, in charge of payment and settlement systems, as an ex-officio member
 - An RBI official
 - Three persons nominated by the Central Government, who are experts in payment systems, IT, cybersecurity, and law.
- **Tenure:** 4 years; not eligible for reappointment, may resign on 6 weeks' notice.
 - **Not eligible to be a member:**
 - Above 70 years of age
 - Declared bankrupt
 - Convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment for 180 days or more
 - Member of Parliament or a State Legislature, etc.
 - **Meeting of the Payment Regulatory Board:** Meetings are mandatory at least twice a year. A quorum of three members, including the Chairperson (or in their absence, the Deputy Governor) and a nominated member, is required.
 - Decisions on the Board are taken by a majority of the members present and voting.
 - In case of a tie, the Chairperson (or in their absence, the Deputy Governor) will have a casting vote.
- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007:**
- Regulates and supervises payment systems in India. This includes everything from manual clearing to electronic transfers like RTGS and NEFT.
 - RBI is designated as the central authority to oversee the payment and settlement infrastructure.
 - This law ensures consumer protection by prohibiting the charging of unfair fees and holding intermediaries accountable for mistakes.

Weighted Average Call Rate



Why in News?

- The RBI will continue to use the overnight weighted average call rate as the operating target for monetary policy.



Key Points:

Overnight Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR):

- The WACR is the average interest rate at which banks lend or borrow money from each other overnight, i.e., for one day.

Significance:

- It reflects the cost of short-term borrowing in the banking system. This helps the RBI monitor how easy or difficult it is for banks to obtain funds.
- If the WACR increases, it means borrowing is becoming more expensive; if the WACR decreases, it means borrowing is becoming easier.

Liquidity Operations Are Conducted By RBI To Keep The WACR Aligned To The Repo Rate.

If The WACR Drifts Towards The SDF Rate (Lower Bound Of Monetary Policy Corridor), It Brings Down Costs Of Funds Of Banks.

If It Drifts Towards MSF Rate (Upper Of MP Corridor), Cost Of The Funds Of Banks Goes Up.

Duties and Taxes Refund Scheme on Exported Products: RoDTEP



Why in News?

- The RoDTEP scheme has been extended until March 2026.



Key Points:

- **Launched:** Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry in January 2021.
- **Objective:** To refund taxes, duties, and levies imposed at the central, state, and local levels that are not refunded under any other schemes.
- It reduces hidden costs on goods, making Indian exports cheaper and more competitive in the global market.
- The scheme covers taxes levied during the manufacturing and distribution of exported products.



Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products



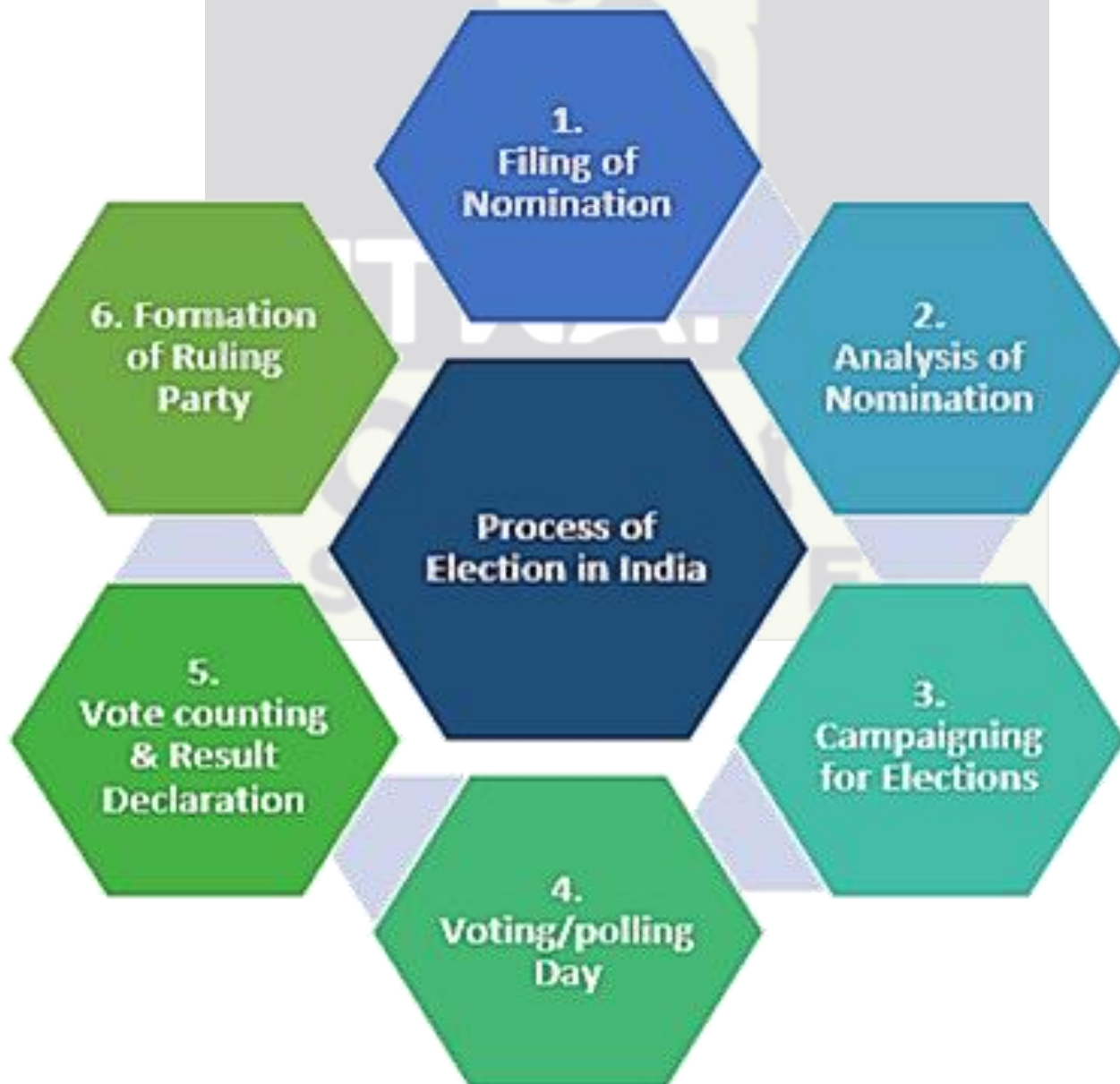
🎓 POLITY 🎓

Postal Ballot



Why in News?

- According to a notification from the Election Commission of India (ECI), counting of EVM votes will begin only after the postal ballots have been fully counted.



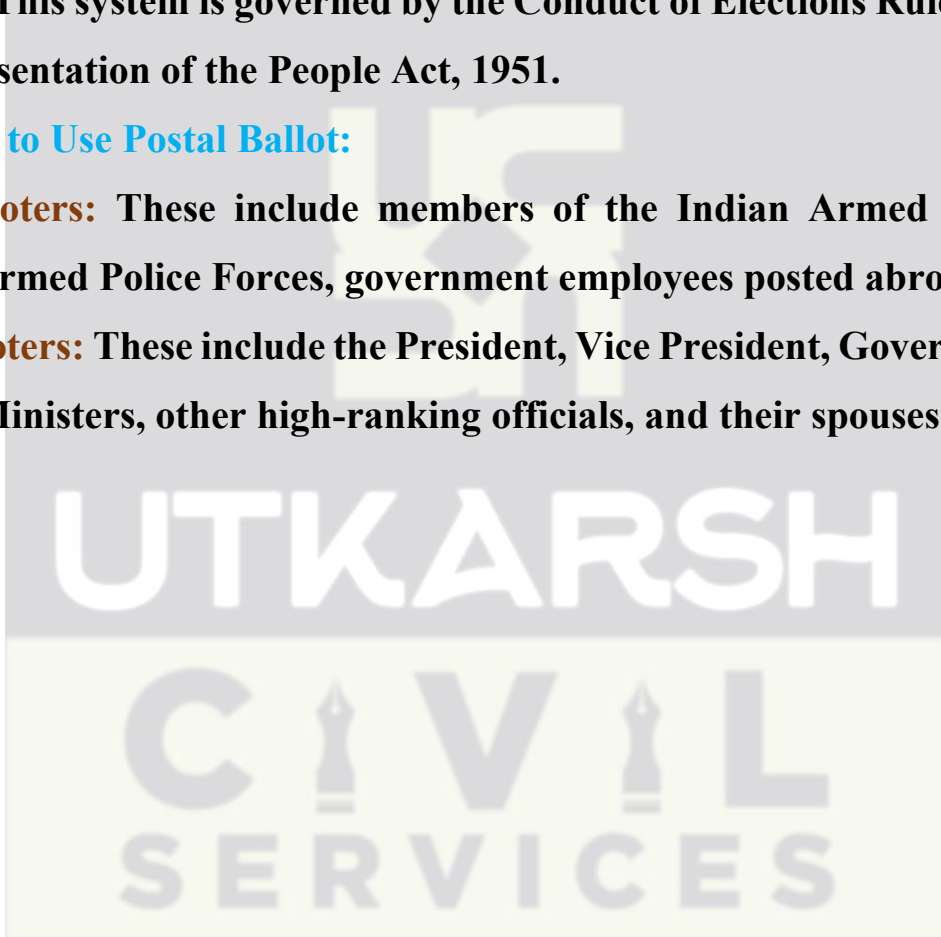


Key Points:

- Postal ballot is a system whereby voters can receive their ballot electronically and send it by post. This eliminates the need to physically visit a polling station to cast their vote.
- **Legality:** This system is governed by the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Eligibility to Use Postal Ballot:

- **Service Voters:** These include members of the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces, government employees posted abroad, etc.
- **Special Voters:** These include the President, Vice President, Governors, Union Cabinet Ministers, other high-ranking officials, and their spouses.



Special Intensive Revision



Why in News?

- The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls was successfully completed in Bihar.



परिचय

- स्वायत्त संवैधानिक निकाय
- लोकसभा, राज्यसभा, राज्य विधानसभाओं, राष्ट्रपति और उपराष्ट्रपति के चुनाव का संचालन
- स्थापना- 25 जनवरी, 1950 (राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस)


संवैधानिक प्रावधान
भाग XV-अनुच्छेद 324 से 329

संरचना

- 1 मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त और 2 चुनाव आयुक्त (राष्ट्रपति द्वारा नियुक्त)
- कार्यकाल - 6 वर्ष या 65 वर्ष की आयु तक, जो भी पहले हो
- सेवानिवृत्त चुनाव आयुक्त- सरकार द्वारा पुनर्नियुक्ति के लिये पात्र
- मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त को हटाना- सदन की कुल संख्या के 50% से अधिक के समर्थन से उपस्थित और मतदान करने वाले 2/3 सदस्यों के बहुमत के साथ सिद्ध कदाचार या अक्षमता के आधार पर प्रस्ताव

प्रमुख भूमिकाएँ और जिम्मेदारियाँ

- चुनावी निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों का निर्धारण
- मतदाता सूची तैयार करना और उसका पुनरीक्षण करना
- चुनाव कार्यक्रम और तारीखों को अधिसूचित करना
- राजनीतिक दलों को पंजीकृत करना और उन्हें राष्ट्रीय या राज्य दलों का दर्जा देना
- राजनीतिक दलों के लिये "आदर्श आचार संहिता" जारी करना



Key Points:

Special Intensive Revision (SIR):

- It involves door-to-door verification to ensure that all eligible citizens are enrolled in the electoral rolls.
- **Necessity:** Under Article 324, the Election Commission of India has the power to register all eligible voters in the electoral rolls.
- **Legal Provisions:** Article 326 of the Constitution, Representation of the People Act, 1950.
- **Significance:** It ensures the purity of the electoral rolls to conduct free and fair elections.



IMPORTANT PORTALS AND APPS



Sahyog Portal



Why in News?

- Platform X will appeal the Karnataka High Court's decision to uphold the Sahayog Portal.



Key Points:

Sahyog Portal

- **Purpose:** It automates the process of sending legal notices to online intermediaries (platforms/ISPs) to remove illegal content on social media platforms.
- **Nodal agency:** Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Legal status:** The portal operates under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, to take prompt action against cyber-based illegal activities.
- **Significance:** It is a centralized platform for various authorized government agencies to collaborate with digital platforms in real time. This improves digital security and governance.

AWARDS

The Resurrection Quest



Why in News?

- The Mumbai-based documentary series, 'The Resurrection Quest,' won the prestigious Gold Dolphin Award at the 16th Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards. This four-part series on the Northern White Rhino included a Northern White Rhino IVF study.



Key Points:

Northern White Rhino:

- It is a subspecies of the white rhino that was once widely distributed throughout Central Africa.
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered.
- Currently, only two female Northern White Rhinos (Njin and Fatu) remain in the world. They are currently housed at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.
- **Conservation efforts:** Saving the Northern White Rhino from extinction using IVF using frozen sperm and Southern White Rhino females as surrogates.