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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 1

GRANTING OF SC STATUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 -Social Justice)

REPORT IN 2 YEARS

Ex-CJI named head of panel on SC status for Dalit converts

Delaying tactic...still face bias, say Dalit Christian and Muslim organisations

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 7

THE CENTRE has appointed a three-member commission, headed by former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan, to consider the possibility of granting SC status to "new persons who have historically belonged to the Scheduled Castes" but have converted to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

According to a notification issued Thursday by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the commission will also include retired IAS officer Dr Ravinder Kumar Jain and UGC member Prof (Dr) Sushma Yadav as members. The commission will have to submit its report to the Ministry in two years, it said.



Former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan



Quotas: Govt to set up panel to study status of SC converts to Christianity and Islam

The *Indian Express* report on September 19

gion different from Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism can be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. The original order under which only Hindus were classified was later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists.

Context: THE CENTRE has appointed a three-member commission to consider the possibility of granting SC status to "new persons who have historically belonged to the Scheduled Castes'' but have converted to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

Criteria for SC status

- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, stipulates that no person professing a religion different from Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism can be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste.
- The original order under which only Hindus were classified was later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists.
- The Order was amended in 1956 to include Dalits who had converted to Sikhism and once more in 1990 to include Dalits who had converted to Buddhism.
    - Both amendments were aided by the reports of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission in 1955 and the High-Powered Panel (HPP) on Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1983 respectively.
- The Union government in 2019 rejected the possibility of including Dalit Christians as members of SCs, rooting the exclusion on an Imperial Order of 1936 of the then colonial government, which had first classified a list of the Depressed Classes and specifically excluded "Indian Christians" from it.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 5

OBC RESERVATION IN LOCAL BODY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Bihar govt to move SC against HC ban on quota in local bodies

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, OCTOBER 7

THE BIHAR government has decided to move Supreme Court against Patna High Court's order, saying the government cannot provide reservation in local bodies till it complied with a 2021 Supreme Court order on having triple test that included setting up a dedicated commission to quantify backwardness and put up 50 per cent reservation ceiling.

Soon after the Patna HC order on October 4, state election commission had deferred the Bihar local bodies polls, which were scheduled from October 10.

Bihar Advocate General Lalit Kishore confirmed to *The Indian Express*: "The state government is moving Supreme Court against the HC order."

Bihar finance minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said: "We are upset with the Patna HC order. We have pleaded that the situation in Bihar is different from Maharashtra where the local bodies polls were deferred last year after SC said about having a mandatory triple test if the government wanted to reserve seats for OBC and EBCs. The SC order had referred to its 2010 order in which it was said that reservation criteria in local self-government had to be different from ones in jobs and higher education."

Context: Bihar govt has decided to move Supreme Court against High Court ban on quota in local bodies.

OBC Reservation in Local Body Elections

- The 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 provides for the reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in every panchayat/municipality (i.e., at all three levels) in the proportion of their population to the total population in the panchayat area/municipal area.
- The state legislature shall provide for the reservation of offices of chairperson in the panchayat/municipality at any other level for the SCs and STs.
- The act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging the SCs and STs).
- Not less than one-third of the total number of offices of chairpersons in the panchayats/municipality at each level shall be reserved for women.
- The act also authorises the legislature of a state to make any provision for reservation of seats in any panchayat/municipality or offices of chairperson in the panchayat/municipalities at any level in favour of backward classes.

Triple-Test Formula

- **Triple-Test Formula:** laid down by the Supreme Court in 2010 and later reiterated in March 2021, required the states to appoint a commission, collect quantifiable data of the community, and allocate reservation to them in local bodies in such a manner that the total reservation in each seat does not exceed 50%.
- **K. Krishnamurthy (Dr.) v. Union of India (2010):** SC had interpreted Article 243D(6) and Article 243T(6), which permit reservation by enactment of law for backward classes in panchayat and municipal bodies respectively, to hold that barriers to political participation are not the same as that of the barriers that limit access to education and employment.
    - For creating a level playing field, reservation may be desirable as mandated by the aforementioned Articles which provide a separate constitutional basis for reservation, as distinct from what are conceived under Article 15 (4) and Article 16 (4) which form the basis for reservation in education and employment.
    - Though reservation to local bodies is permissible, the top court declared that the same is subject to empirical finding of backwardness in relation to local bodies as fulfilled through the triple tests.

LIVEMINT Page 13

CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR STARTUPS (CGSS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Central govt notifies credit guarantee scheme for startups

FROM PAGE 16

evaluation committee for review and operational oversight of the scheme. The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Co. Ltd will operate the scheme.

"Amid the cash crunch, the biggest hurdle that a startup races up and falters against is the funding itself. The hostile response from banks who perceive startups as a high-risk proposition and the endless cycles of pitches to VCs or angel investors can also put off the most determined," said Arham Pratap Jain, founder and chief technology officer of Truckenetic, an online transport and logistics company.

Jain added that a collateral-free credit scheme is a much-needed intervention and would help the startup ecosystem in the country.

CGSS would be applicable on loans extended by scheduled commercial banks, non-banking financial companies, and Sebi- registered alternative investment funds.

Rajesh Singla, founder and chief executive of Planify, a fintech, praised the initiative. "This will provide a big morale boost to emerging startups. It will help alleviate the fears of the startups, and they would be able to avail collateral-free credit up to a certain limit to expand their business on the guarantee of the government," Singla said.

Context: The Union government announced the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), aimed at improving the availability of collateral-free loans to startups at a time early-stage companies are finding it hard to raise funds.

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)

- The start-up sector, most recently, received a much-needed push from the Government of India with the formulation of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups with a contribution of Rs. 2,000 crore.
- The scheme is part of the Startup India action plan and will thus allow startups to avail loans for their businesses without any collateral.
- **Features of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups**
  - The startup has to be recognised by the DIPP (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) in order to be eligible for the credit guarantee.
  - The guarantees will be offered based on portfolios, and these portfolios will consist of at least 10 startup loans for a particular financial year.
  - The credit guarantee offered will be inclusive of any other assistance (Venture capital, working capital, debentures, optionally convertible debt, term loans etc.) and will be offered up to the amount of Rs. 5 crore to every eligible startup.
  - **The coverage offered by the scheme is as follows –**
    - The scheme will be providing credit to cover up to 75% of the credit facility subject to a ceiling of Rs. 150 lakh.
    - Where loans of less than Rs. 5 lakh are granted to micro-enterprises, the scheme covers upto 85% of the credit facility.
    - MSMEs operated or owned by women and all loans granted to NER (North-East Region) including Sikkim will have up to 80% of the credit facility covered by this scheme.
    - 50% of the amount of credit for MSME retail trade will be covered under this scheme, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh.

LIVEMINT Page 14

BH SERIES VEHICLES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Draft rules issued for BH-series No. plate

Subhash Narayan
subhash.narayan@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

The ministry of road transport and highways has issued a draft notification proposing new rules to increase the scope of implementation of registrations of BH series vehicles.

The BH series registration gives a nationally applicable number to vehicles that could be driven in part of the country without seeking fresh registration or no objection certificate from the respective transport departments.

The new rules would permit transfer of vehicles with BH series registration to other persons. The changes will also allow vehicles with regular or currently prevalent state specific registration marks to also be converted to BH series registration marks subject to payment of requisite tax.

"Application for registration of vehicle under BH series, opted voluntarily by the vehicle owner, shall be made to any registering authority of the state, in which the vehicle owner has either permanent residence or place of work and the registration mark shall be generated randomly through the portal after verification of working certificate in Form 60 or official identity card, as the case may be, by the registering authority," the draft notification said.

The government is promoting nationally applicable BH series to universalize registration of vehicles and bring about a seamless system of maintaining vehicle records.

This would also simplify the registration process and allow ease of regulations, according to the government.

Context: The ministry of road transport and highways has issued a draft notification proposing new rules to increase the scope of implementation of registrations of BH series vehicles.

BH series vehicles

- It is a new system of registration of vehicles designed to reduce the red-tape.
- Vehicles bearing the BH registration mark will not require to be re-registered in a new state once it relocates.
- It will be completely online and will come into force from September 15 this year.
- **Eligibility**
  - Anyone who is a government/PSU employee, state or Centre.
  - In private sector, an employee of a company that has offices in at least four states/UTs is eligible on voluntary basis.
- **System of tax payment**
  - The motor vehicle tax will be levied for 2 years or in multiple of 2 instead of paying the 15 years' tax upfront.
  - After the completion of 14th year, the tax shall be levied annually which shall be half of the amount which was charged earlier.
- **Road tax**
  - Road tax will be charged at 8% if the cost of the vehicle is below Rs 10 lakh
  - It is 10% for those costing between Rs 10-20 lakh.
  - For vehicles costing more than Rs 20 lakh, the tax is 12 per cent
  - Diesel vehicles will be charged 2% extra.
  - Electric vehicles shall be charged 2 per cent less tax.

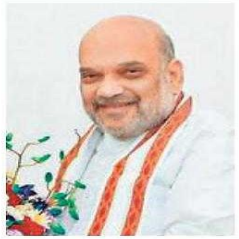
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PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES (PACS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Agri-credit societies to be set up in all panchayats, says Shah

Press Trust of India
GANGTOK


PACS will benefit NE States, says Amit Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) will be set up in all panchayats of the country to boost various activities over the next five years, such as marketing of dairy products, and people of Northeast will largely benefit from the move.

The Minister noted that there are only 65,000 active PACS in the country at present, and it is imperative that all panchayats must have one such body by 2027 to promote farming and dairy activities at the grassroots level.

"The co-operation ministry is working on a plan to set up multi-purpose PACS in panchayats over the next five years in order to promote various cooperative activities at the grassroots level," he said, inaugurating the 'Eastern and North-Eastern Zones Dairy Cooperative Conclave- 2022' at Manan Kendra.

Such PACS will carry out activities like sale of gas and petrol and storage and marketing of dairy and farm products with an aim to alleviate poverty and empower women, Mr. Shah, who arrived here around noon, said.

Mr. Shah also pointed out that the eastern and northeastern states will benefit the most from the establishment of the PACS as its farm and dairy products will be efficiently marketed, thus generating optimum financial benefits for people engaged in animal husbandry and allied sectors.

Alleging that the previous governments had neglected the cooperative sector, Mr. Shah said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the vision to identify the role that the segment could play in poverty alleviation and women empowerment and decided to set up a separate ministry.

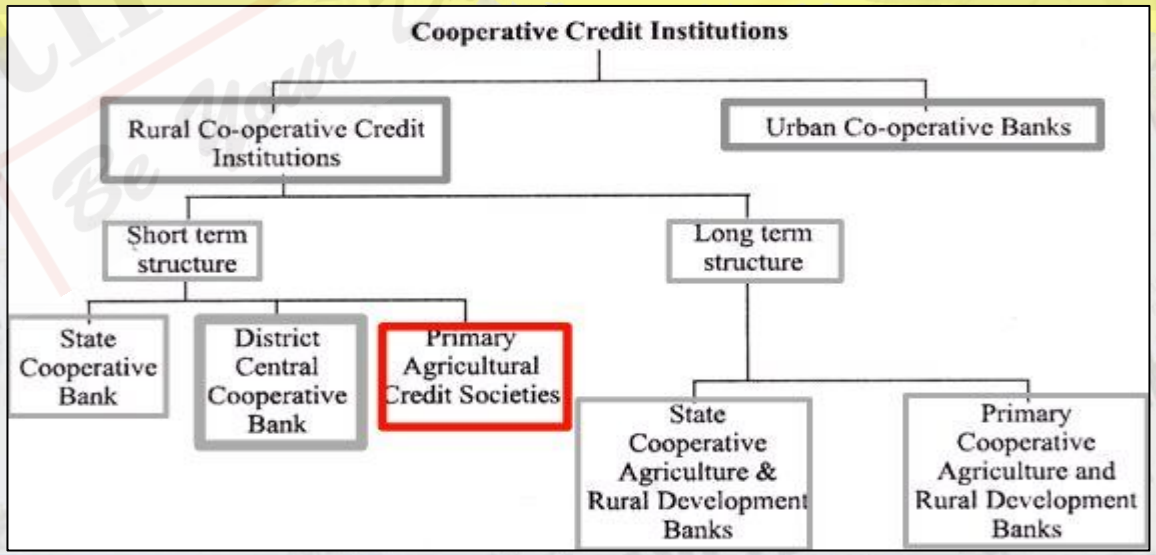
He left for Guwahati later in the day. Mr. Shah is visiting Assam for three days beginning Friday during which he will attend a meeting on floods, inaugurate a State-level SPs conference and address BJP workers.

Mr. Shah will also attend a meeting of Chief Ministers and DGPs of north-eastern States on narcotics, review the functioning of the North Eastern Space Application Centre and inaugurate the newly built office of the BJP's Assam unit during the visit, sources said here.

Context: Union Home and Cooperation said that primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) will be set up in all panchayats of the country to boost various activities over the next five years.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

- PACS is a basic unit and smallest co-operative credit institutions in India.
- It provide short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans to the farmers for the various agricultural and farming activities.
- It works at the grassroots gram Panchayat and village level.
- The first Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) was formed in the year 1904.
- The PACS functioning at the base of the co-operative banking system constitute the major retail outlets of short term and medium term credit to the rural sector.
- PACS are registered under the Co-operative Societies Act and also regulated by the RBI.
- They are governed by the "Banking regulation Act-1949" and Banking Laws (Co-operative societies) Act 1965.
- PACS is the final link between the ultimate borrowers, i.e., rural people, on the one hand, and the higher agencies, i.e., Central cooperative bank, state cooperative bank, and Reserve Bank of India, on the other.



THE HINDU Page 8

APPOINTMENT OF CJI

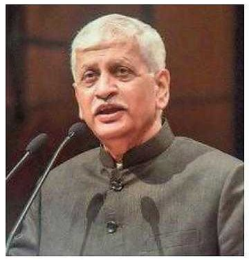
(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Centre seeks CJI's recommendation on appointment of his successor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Law and Justice on October 7, 2022 sought Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit's recommendation for appointment of his successor.

"As per the MoP [Memorandum of Procedure] on appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, today the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice sent a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India for sending his recommendations for appointment of his successor," the Ministry tweeted.

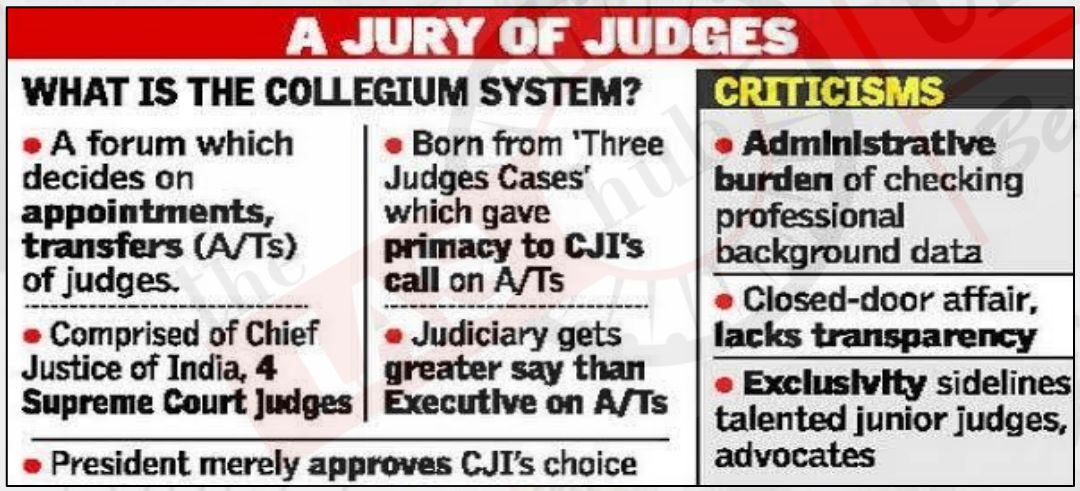

Chief Justice U.U. Lalit

The letter kick-starts the appointment process for the 50th Chief Justice of India. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is next in line to be Chief Justice of India in accordance with the seniority norm.

The process of appointment, according to the 'Memorandum of Procedure of Appointment of Supreme Court Judges', begins with the Union Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI about the next appointment.

The Minister has to seek the CJI's recommendation "at the appropriate time". The Memorandum does not elaborate or specify a timeline. Usually the Law Minister sends his request and the outgoing CJI makes his recommendation with a month to spare before his retirement. Chief Justice Lalit is set to retire on November 8, which leaves him hardly 15 working days.

The appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India has begun at a time when four names are under consideration of the collegium for appointment as Supreme Court judges. Usually, no new recommendations for judicial appointments are made when the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India is on.



Context: The Ministry of Law and Justice sought Chief Justice of India's recommendation for appointment of his successor.

Appointment of CJI

- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
- The Union Law Minister forwards the recommendation to the Prime Minister who, in turn, advises the President.
- SC in the Second Judges Case (1993), ruled that the senior most judge of the Supreme Court should alone be appointed to the office of the CJI.
- The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- The collegium system is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the Supreme Court (Judges Cases), and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- In 2019, the SC ruled that the office of Chief Justice of India (CJI) comes under the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 25

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

RBI's concept paper seeks offline feature in e-rupee

Will Enable Use Without Telecom, Electricity: Central Bank

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI has said in a concept paper on the digital rupee that it is desirable to have an offline feature. This, it said, would enable the central bank digital currency (CBDC) to work in places without a telecom network or even electricity.

The central bank said that the offline feature would also help to create digital footprints of the unbanked population in the financial system, facilitating easy credit availability.

One of the interesting applications for which the central bank aims to use a digital currency is programmability. "CBDCs have the possibility of programming the money by tying the end use. For example, agriculture credit by banks can be programmed to ensure that it is used only at input store outlets. Similarly, for MSMEs, etc, that may take care of the issue of diversion of funds and further financial inclusion," said the concept note.

The note added that the CBDC could also be used for real-time cross-border transactions as there were projects like the Multiple CBDC Bridge Project and Project Dunbar. These bring together the CBDCs of different countries.

On the issue of anonymity, the concept paper calls for a design that will erase all trails of low-value transactions. "Clearly, the degree of anonymity would be a key design decision for any CBDC. In this regard, reasonable anonymity for small-value transactions akin to anonymity associated with physical cash may be a desirable option for CBDC-retail," said the note.

"Supported by state-of-the-art payment systems of India that are affordable, accessible, convenient, efficient, safe and secure, the digital rupee (e-rupee) system will further bolster India's digital economy, make the monetary and payment systems more efficient and contribute to furthering financial inclusion," the paper added.

Interestingly, the RBI wants a recall feature in the CBDC. "In case any specific series of tokens get hacked, it may be technically possible to recall them on an instant basis or release new security features digitally," the central bank said.

CBDC Pilot May Be Launched In This Fiscal

- The RBI is exploring the option of an **account-based** (where transactions could be traced) CBDC in the wholesale segment and **token-based** (where only verification may take place) CBDC for retail
- In the case of retail CBDC, the RBI will only issue and redeem them, while the **distribution and payment services will be relegated to banks**
- The central bank will test multiple tech options before choosing the final architecture
- The architectures available include distributed ledger technology (**like blockchain**), centralised and hybrid (open source/proprietary)
- The first phase will involve the launch of prototype and tests in a controlled environment, followed by a **pilot launch**
- A CBDC payment system will need to comply with money laundering and terror financing norms



Context: Reserve Bank of India, in a concept paper on the digital rupee, has said that it is desirable to have an offline feature that would enable the central bank's digital currency to work in places without a telecom network or electricity.

Central Bank Digital Currency

- CBDCs are a digital form of a paper currency and unlike cryptocurrencies that operate in a regulatory vacuum, these are legal tenders issued and backed by a central bank.
- It is the same as a fiat currency and is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency.
- A fiat currency is a national currency that is not pegged to the price of a commodity such as gold or silver.
- The digital fiat currency or CBDC can be transacted using wallets backed by blockchain.
- Though the concept of CBDCs was directly inspired by Bitcoin, it is different from decentralised virtual currencies and crypto assets, which are not issued by the state and lack the 'legal tender' status.
- RBI had proposed amendments to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which would enable it to launch a CBDC.

DTE

Oct 8

UNFCCC AND GREENWASHING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

CLIMATE CHANGE

Irony just died: Coca-Cola, among biggest global polluters, to sponsor CoP27

Activists and commentators have called Coca-Cola's sponsorship of the world's biggest climate summit a 'greenwashing exercise'

By Akshit Sangomla
Published: Friday 07 October 2022



Context: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties 27's (CoP 27) Egyptian presidency September 29, 2022 named Coca-Cola Company - one of the biggest plastic polluters in the world - as the official provider and supporter of the year's biggest climate change conference.

Key Points

- CoP27 is to be held at Sharm El-Sheikh on Egypt's Red Sea coast from November 6-18.
- In Uganda, Coca-Cola is responsible for 20 per cent of all plastic pollution, according to a brand audit report by non-profits Break Free from Plastic and EndPlasticPollution.
- The report found that the rivers Mpanga and Rwizi are the worst-affected and even Lake Victoria, one Africa's Great Lakes, is filling up with plastic.
- Coca-Cola has been polluting rivers, oceans and land globally with 120 billion single-use plastic bottles, thus risking the health of humans, animals and plants.
- The conglomerate is also significantly responsible for the climate crisis as 99 per cent of the plastic is produced from fossil fuels.
- In 2021, Coca-Cola's GHG emissions were 5.17 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalents, according to non-profit Global Data.
- Greenpeace also claimed that Coca-Cola should increase their reuse and refill target of 25 per cent to 50 per cent by 2030 and in fact, it should be ambitious about completely phasing out its single-use plastic.

UNFCCC.

- This body was established as an International Treaty in 1992 to deal with and combat human interference in the climate system by releasing harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
- It came into force in 1994. The headquarters are situated in Bonn, Germany.
- The Convention has near-universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep the global average temperature rise this century as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- The UNFCCC is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

Greenwashing

- Greenwashing is the practice of making an unsubstantiated or misleading claim about the environmental benefits of a product, service, technology or company practice.
- Greenwashing can make a company appear to be more environmentally friendly than it really is.

PIB

Oct 8

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

NMDC hosts Talk on Cyber Security Awareness

IREDA celebrates "Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas"

Context: The company is observing National Cyber Security Awareness Month, celebrated in October every year by public and private companies together to enhance the overall resilience of the country.

Recent Steps taken by Government for Cyber Security Awareness

- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative**: It was launched in 2018 with an aim to spread awareness about cybercrime and building capacity for safety measures for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT staff across all government departments.
- **National Cyber security Coordination Centre (NCCC)**: In 2017, the NCCC was developed. Its mandate is to scan internet traffic and communication metadata (which are little snippets of information hidden inside each communication) coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threats.
- **Cyber Swachhta Kendra**: In 2017, this platform was introduced for internet users to clean their computers and devices by wiping out viruses and malware.
- **Information Security Education and Awareness Project (ISEA) project:** Training of 1.14 Lakh persons through 52 institutions under the ISEA – a project to raise awareness and to provide research, education and training in the field of Information Security.
- **International cooperation**: Looking forward to becoming a secure cyber ecosystem, India has joined hands with several developed countries like the United States, Singapore, Japan, etc. These agreements will help India to challenge even more sophisticated cyber threats.

PIB

Oct 8

AIR FORCE DAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

PM greets Indian Air Force on Air Force Day

Air Force Day

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is celebrated on 8th october every year.
- On this day, the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.
- First operational squadron in 1933.
- After participation in World War II (1939-45), the Air Force in India came to be called the Royal Indian Air Force.
- It became the Indian Air Force after the republic came into being in 1950.
- India Air Force is the fourth largest in the world after the USA, China and Russia.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Motto of the IAF is 'Touch the Sky with Glory' and it was taken from the eleventh chapter of the Bhagavad Gita.
- The President of India holds the rank of Supreme Commander of the air force.
- The Chief of Air Staff, an air chief marshal is responsible for the operational command of the air force.
- IAF works with the United Nations' peacekeeping missions.



THANK YOU!

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/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com/daily-quiz

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