the IAS hub
Be Your Dream.

DECEMBER
29

CRUX 10

10 News. 10 Sources. One Place



THE HINDU
ET
BS
TOI
The Indian EXPRESS
livemint
pib
DownToEarth
FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH
Science Reporter
सत्यमेव जयते
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Table of Contents

1. Finance-Based Ranking of Cities
2. Pulses Production in India
3. Framework for Index Providers
4. Medical Devices in India
5. Mongla Port
6. Reservation in Local Body Elections
7. Bhadrachalam Temple
8. National Medical Commission
9. WAPCO Company
10. Omega Centauri

THE HINDU Page 12

FINANCE-BASED RANKING OF CITIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Policies & Interventions)

Norms to rank cities based on financial governance launched

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday launched guidelines for a new finance-based ranking of cities, which would evaluate urban units on 15 key parameters, including resource mobilisation, expenditure performance and fiscal governance. A separate ranking will also evaluate cities on beautification.

The rankings are aimed at motivating city and State officials to implement municipal financial reforms.

"India has embarked on the most ambitious plan for urban rejuvenation undertaken anywhere in the world. A healthy sense of competition gives the best performing cities a sense of pride," Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Hardeep Singh Puri said. A 'City Beauty Competition' initiative was also launched to rank cities on accessibility and aesthetics.

Context: The Union government launched **guidelines for a new finance-based ranking of cities,** evaluating urban units on 15 key parameters, including resource mobilization, expenditure performance, and fiscal governance.

- A separate order will also consider cities beautification.
- Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is the Nodal Ministry.

Key Points

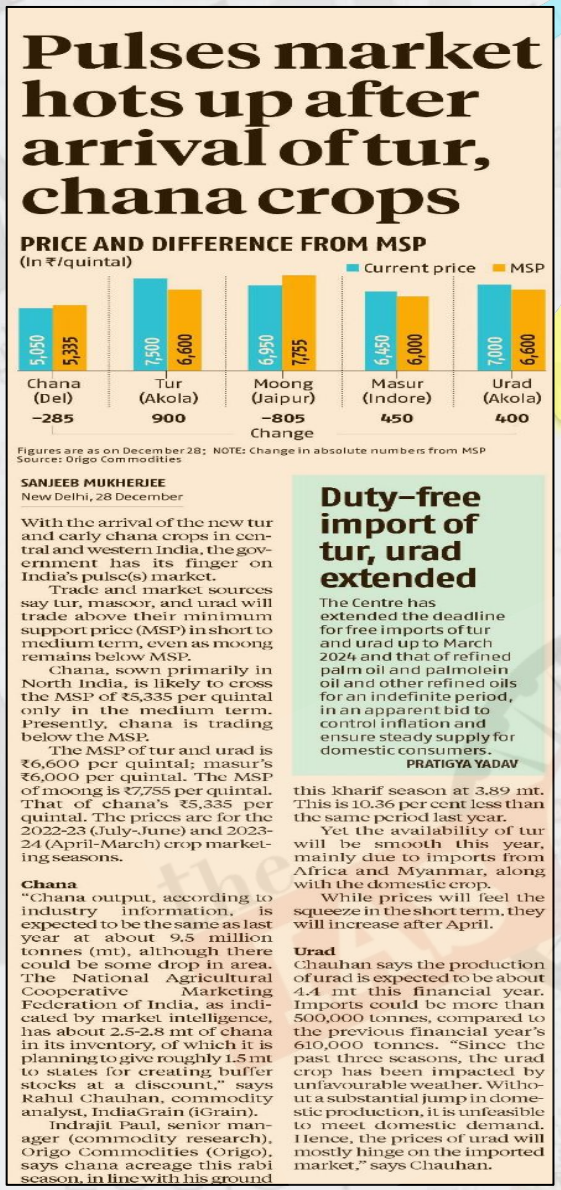
- **Finance-based ranking**: The rankings are aimed at motivating city and State officials to implement municipal financial reforms.
  - Cities will be **ranked at the national level** on the basis of their scores under any one of the following **four population categories** - above four million, between 1-4 million, between 100,000 to 1 million, and less than 100,000.
  - The **top three cities** in each population category will be recognized and rewarded at the national level as well as within each State or State cluster.
  - The participating urban bodies shall be **invited to submit the required data or documents** through the website www.cityfinance.in.
  - **All cities and urban local bodies**, which are more than 4,500 in number, would be encouraged to participate in the **City Finance Rankings 2022.**
- **City Beauty Competition initiative:** This is to encourage and recognize the transformational efforts made by cities and wards in India toward creating beautiful, innovative, and inclusive public spaces.
  - In this ranking, wards and public places in cities will be judged against the five broad pillars of **accessibility, amenities, activities, aesthetics, and ecology.**
  - The city beauty competition would facilitate the **most beautiful wards and most beautiful public places** at the city level.
  - While selected wards would be felicitated at the city and State levels, at the city level, the most beautiful public places in cities, such as **waterfronts, green spaces, tourist and heritage spaces, and market and commercial places**, would be awarded first at the State and then shortlisted for awards at the national level.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 4

PULSES PRODUCTION IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)



Pulses market hots up after arrival of tur, chana crops

PRICE AND DIFFERENCE FROM MSP

(In ₹/quintal)

Figures are as on December 28; NOTE: Change in absolute numbers from MSP
Source: Origo Commodities

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 28 December

With the arrival of the new tur and early chana crops in central and western India, the government has its finger on India's pulse(s) market.

Trade and market sources say tur, masoor, and urad will trade above their minimum support price (MSP) in short to medium term, even as moong remains below MSP.

Chana, sown primarily in North India, is likely to cross the MSP of ₹5,335 per quintal only in the medium term. Presently, chana is trading below the MSP.

The MSP of tur and urad is ₹6,600 per quintal; masur's ₹6,000 per quintal. The MSP of moong is ₹7,755 per quintal. That of chana's ₹5,335 per quintal. The prices are for the 2022-23 (July-June) and 2023-24 (April-March) crop marketing seasons.

Chana

"Chana output, according to industry information, is expected to be the same as last year at about 9.5 million tonnes (mt), although there could be some drop in area. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India, as indicated by market intelligence, has about 2.5-2.8 mt of chana in its inventory, of which it is planning to give roughly 1.5 mt to states for creating buffer stocks at a discount," says Rahul Chauhan, commodity analyst, IndiaGrain (iGrain).

Indrajit Paul, senior manager (commodity research), Origo Commodities (Origo), says chana acreage this rabi season, in line with his ground this kharif season at 3.89 mt. This is 10.36 per cent less than the same period last year.

Yet the availability of tur will be smooth this year, mainly due to imports from Africa and Myanmar, along with the domestic crop.

While prices will feel the squeeze in the short term, they will increase after April.

Urad

Chauhan says the production of urad is expected to be about 4.4 mt this financial year. Imports could be more than 500,000 tonnes, compared to the previous financial year's 610,000 tonnes. "Since the past three seasons, the urad crop has been impacted by unfavourable weather. Without a substantial jump in domestic production, it is unfeasible to meet domestic demand. Hence, the prices of urad will mostly hinge on the imported market," says Chauhan.

Duty-free import of tur, urad extended

The Centre has extended the deadline for free imports of tur and urad up to March 2024 and that of refined palm oil and palmolein oil and other refined oils for an indefinite period, in an apparent bid to control inflation and ensure steady supply for domestic consumers.

PRATIGYA YADAV

Context: With the arrival of the new tur and early chana crops in central and western India, the government has its finger on **India´s pulse market.**

- **Tur, masoor, and urad** will trade above their minimum support price (MSP) in short to medium term, even as moong remains below MSP.
- **Chana**, sown primarily in North India, is likely to cross the MSP of ₹ 5,335 per quintal only in the medium term.
- Presently, **chana is trading below the MSP.**

Pulses Production in India

- India is the **largest producer (25% of global production)**, the **consumer (27% of world consumption),** and the **importer (14%) of pulses** in the world.
  - Being the largest producer of pulses in the world, India also exports this produce.
  - Pulses account for around **20 percent of the area** under food grains and contribute around **7-10 percent of the total foodgrains production** in the country.
  - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka are the top five pulses producing States.
- Pulses are **grown in all three seasons** - Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid.
  - Rabi pulses contribute more than **60 percent of the total production.**
  - The production of pulses for **both Rabi and Kharif seasons has increased in the last three decades.**
  - The productivity of pulses is 764 kg/ha.
- **Gram is the most dominant pulse** but only with a share of around 40 percent in the total production followed by Tur/Arhar at 15 to 20 percent and Urad/Black Matpe and Moong at around 8-10 percent each.
  - **White Peas (Matar) are major pulses** grown and consumed in India.
- Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends **MSPs of 5 pulses - gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 17

Sebi proposes regulatory framework for index providers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 28

MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi on Wednesday proposed a framework for index providers, aimed at improving transparency and accountability in governance and administration of the financial benchmarks or indices in the domestic securities market.

In the stock market, an index is essentially a method of measuring a change in value of a group of securities forming part of such an index. It performs several functions such as assisting the investors in understanding the health of the market and also enabling them to study the market sentiment, enabling performance measurement and benchmarking.

The proposed regulation shall be applicable to index providers (both domestic and foreign) if the users of the index/products based on index are located in India, the markets regulator said.

Under the framework, the index providers offering indices for use in India will be required to register with Sebi for obtaining authorization for introduction of indices in the country.

The markets regulator said the index provider shall be a legal entity incorporated under Companies Act in the country of origin and should have a minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore.

The index provider will have to constitute an oversight committee for reviewing existing index design. The committee will also review any proposed changes to benchmark methodology. The regulations said the index provider must have policies and procedures to manage conflicts of interest and to protect the integrity and independence of various functions performed in connection with determination of indices.

In case an index provider is engaged in any other activity, the activity of index provider in general and the benchmark determination process in particular must be completely ring-fenced to prevent sharing or leakage of any sensitive information, Sebi said. Index provider must document and make available publicly, the methodology for index calculation. The index providers must be assessed by independent external auditors to evaluate adherence to International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) principles once in two years, as per the proposed regulations.

The markets regulator has sought comments on the proposed framework till January 27, 2023.

FRAMEWORK FOR INDEX PROVIDERS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: Markets regulator **SEBI proposed a framework for index providers**, aimed at improving transparency and accountability in governance and administration of the financial benchmarks or indices in the domestic securities market.

Key Points

- The proposed regulation shall be **applicable to index providers (both domestic and foreign)** if the users of the index/products based on index are located in India.
- Under the framework, the index providers offering indices for use in India will be **required to register with SEBI for** obtaining authorization for introduction of indices in the country.
- The index provider **shall be a legal entity** incorporated under **Companies Act** in the country of origin and should have a minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore.
- The index provider will have to **constitute an oversight committee** for reviewing existing index design.
    - The committee will also review any proposed changes to benchmark methodology.
- The index provider must have **policies and procedures to manage conflicts of interest** and to protect the integrity and independence of various functions performed in connection with determination of indices.
- In case an index provider is **engaged in any other activity,** the activity of index provider in general and the benchmark determination process in particular must be completely ring-fenced to prevent sharing or leakage of any sensitive information.
- Index provider must **document and make available publicly**, the methodology for index calculation.
- The index providers must be assessed by independent external auditors to evaluate adherence to **International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) principles** once in two years.
    - IOSCO is the international body that brings together the world's securities regulators and is recognized as the global standard setter for the securities sector.

Index provider

- **About**: An index provider is a specialized firm that is dedicated to **creating and calculating market indices** and licensing its intellectual capital as the basis of passive products.
    - In the stock market, an index is essentially **a method of measuring a change in value of a group of securities** forming part of such an index.
- **Functions**: It performs several functions such as **assisting the investors in understanding the health of the market** and also enabling them to study the market sentiment, enabling performance measurement and benchmarking.

LIVEMINT

Page 1

MEDICAL DEVICES IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

Centre weighs sops for medtech sector in Union budget

Priyanka Sharma
priyanka.sharma@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

ISTOCKPHOTO



The Centre plans to set up 15-16 medical device production clusters, and labs for testing such devices.

The government is working on a plan to offer financial incentives to encourage the production of high-end medical devices in India to make the country self-sufficient and reduce healthcare costs for people, two people familiar with the development said.

The scheme aims to establish 15-16 medical device production clusters and labs for testing such devices, the people said, requesting anonymity.

The proposed scheme is expected to complement the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for medical devices, which is being implemented by the government.

The medical device industry is highly capital-intensive and requires long gestation periods for developing and adopting new technologies. Most innovative products come from a well-developed ecosystem, which still needs to be built in India. The local industry relies on imports for up to 86% of its needs. "We already have a PLI scheme for medical devices and medical device parks. We don't have any small cluster scheme to support medical devices clusters. We are planning two things—one, a medical device cluster scheme, which we plan to support around 15-16 clusters with ₹20-25 crore per cluster for common infrastructure. And, two, there is a major requirement for medical device testing labs. So, we have proposed dedicated laboratories to test medical devices," one of the officials cited above said.

mint BUDGET 2023 GET.SET GROW

The common infrastructure in the cluster will provide man-

TURN TO PAGE 8

Context: The government is working on a plan to offer financial incentives to encourage the production of **high-end medical devices in India** to make the country self-sufficient and reduce healthcare costs for people, two people familiar with the development said.

Medical devices in India

- **About**: In particular for the **prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of all medical disorders, diseases, illnesses, and impairme**nts, the medical devices sector in India is a crucial and vital component of the Indian healthcare system.
- **Category**: This **multi-product industry** can be broadly divided into the following categories:
  - Electronics Equipment, Implants, Consumables and Disposables, In Vitro Diagnostics (IVDs) reagents, and Surgical Instruments.
- **Regulation**: Up until 2017, when the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization drafted the Medical Device Rules, 2017, the Sector remained **mostly unregulated.**
  - Under the **Drugs and Cosmetic Act 1940,** guidelines for **thorough regulation of MDs** were established in stages, with a focus on the quality, safety, and efficacy elements.
- **India's Status:** India is one of the top twenty markets for medical devices in the world.
  - It is the **4th largest market in Asia** after Japan, China, and South Korea.
  - India currently import**s 80-90% of medical devices** of the USD15 billion market.
  - The **US, Germany, China, Japan, and Singapore** constitute the five largest exporters of high technology medical equipment to India.
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - **PLI Scheme**: Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for promoting **domestic manufacturing of** Medical Devices.
  - **Medical Devices Parks**: Promotion of Medical Devices Parks intends to **encourage the domestic manufacturing** of Medical Devices.
  - **Sunrise sector**: Medical devices has been r**ecognised as a sunrise sector under the 'Make in India' campaign** in 2014.
    - Sunrise industry is a **colloquial term for a burgeoning sector or business** in its infancy stage showing promise of a rapid boom.
    - Sunrise industries are typically characterized by **high growth rates, numerous start-ups, and an abundance of venture capital funding.**
  - **13485 Plus scheme**: The Quality Council of India (QCI) and the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) launched the **Indian Certification of Medical Devices (ICMED) 13485 Plus scheme** to undertake verification of the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 2

MONGLA PORT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

CAPACITY BUILDING

Indian Firm Bags Consultancy Contract for Bangladesh Port

Mongla port is second largest seaport in the neighbouring country

DipanjanRoy.Chaudhury
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: An Indian firm has bagged a contract for providing consultancy for a capacity building project at Mongla port, the second largest seaport in Bangladesh, which will boost sub-regional connectivity in South Asia.

The contract was signed between Mongla Port Authority and EGIS India Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd earlier this week.

While India will provide the majority finance for the project under its concessional line of credit of $4.5 billion to Bangladesh, the Sheikh Hasina government will provide the rest. The project is scheduled to be completed by July 30, 2024.

The project includes constructing a container terminal, handling and delivery yards, a residential complex and community facilities, marine workshop and service jetty, according to Bangladesh officials. Once upgraded, the Mongla port will serve the business interests of eastern India, north-eastern states and Southeast Asian countries, said officials.

While India will provide majority finance for the project, Hasina govt will provide the rest

Bangladesh state minister for

Context: An Indian firm has bagged a contract for providing consultancy for a capacity building project at **Mongla port, the second largest seaport in Bangladesh**, which will boost sub-regional connectivity in South Asia.

- The **Chittagong Port** is the main seaport of Bangladesh.

Mongla port

- **About**: Mongla, also called Mongla Port, formerly **Chalna Port**, port city, **southwestern Bangladesh.**
  - It is the **second largest and second busiest** seaport of Bangladesh.
- **Location**: It is a **link sea port,** located at Mongla Upazila, Khulna Division, Bangladesh.
  - It is a sea port of **Khulna city** which is located near to the north.
  - Mongla port lies close to the shore of **Bay of Bengal and Pashur river.**
- **Significance**: Due to the increasing congestion in Bangladesh's largest port in Chittagong, many international shipping companies have turned to **Mongla as an alternative.**
  - Mongla is also a gateway for tourist ships traveling to the largest mangrove forest of the world, the **Sunderbans**. It is also marked as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
  - The port also hosts the **Mongla Export Processing Zone (Mongla EPZ).**
- **Port's chief exports**: Jute, leather, tobacco, frozen fish, and shrimp. Major imports include grain, cement, fertilizer, coal, and wood pulp.



TIMES OF INDIA

Page 10

RESERVATION IN LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

UP govt sets up panel to fix OBC quota for local polls

Set Up Day After HC Verdict, Commission To Have 6-Month Tenure

Shalabh | TNN

Lucknow: A day after the Allahabad HC ordered to drop the OBC quota from the forthcoming urban local body (ULB) polls in UP, the Yogi Adityanath government on Wednesday set up a five-member commission to conduct a survey of municipal bodies to assess the political backwardness of OBCs on the basis of which quota for the backward classes could be fixed in ULB polls.

The backward classes commission, which has a tenure of six months, will be headed by retired high court judge Justice Ram Avatar Singh. All members of the commission, including the chairman, are from the backward classes. Justice Singh and another member, retired IAS officer Chob Singh Verma, are Jats. Other members are ex-IAS officer Mahendra Kumar and two legal experts, Santosh Kumar Vishwakarma and Brijesh Kumar Soni.



Yogi had earlier announced that the urban local body polls would be conducted after extending quota benefits to OBCs

"We are going to follow the mandate of the UP government and collect data on the OBC community," Verma, who has been a member of the state public services tribunal, told **TOI**.

On Tuesday, the Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC had directed the state government to conduct the ULB polls by January 31 without OBC reservation as the Supreme Court-mandated triple test formula had not been applied while fixing the quota for backward classes. The UP government on December 5 had issued a draft order keeping 27% seats of 762 ULBs reserved for OBCs.

After the HC verdict, Yogi on Tuesday said the ULB polls would be conducted only after extending quota benefits to OBCs, while tweeting that a commission would be set up "to fix reservations for OBCs in accordance with triple-test formula".

A state spokesperson said on the basis of the commission's report on political backwardness of OBCs, the government would fix the backward classes quota applying triple test formula.

Meanwhile, an urban development department official said, "The commission was likely to collect data from revenue department."

Context: A day after the Allahabad HC ordered to drop the O**BC quota from the forthcoming urban local body (ULB)** polls in UP, the state government set up a five-member commission to conduct a survey of municipal bodies to assess the **political backwardness of OBCs** on the basis of which quota for the backward classes could be fixed in ULB polls.

Reservation of Seats in Local Body Elections

- **Reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes:** 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.
- **Reservation of offices of chairperson:** 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.
- **Reservations for women:** 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.
- **Reservations for Backward Classes:** 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.**

PIB

Dec 29

BHADRACHALAM TEMPLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

President of India lays the Foundation Stone for the Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam group of temples and Ramappa Temple

Context: The President of India laid the foundation stone for the development of pilgrimage facilities at **Bhadrachalam Group of Temples** under **PRASHAD scheme** at Bhadrachalam.

- **National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme** focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.

Bhadrachalam Temple

- **About**: **Sri Sita Ramachandraswamy Temple**, popularly known as Bhadrachalam Temple, is a Hindu temple **dedicated to Rama**, a prominent avatar of the god Vishnu.
  - This temple is often, referred to as **Bhadradri of Bhadrachalam** and is considered one of the **Divya Kshetrams of Godavari.**
  - It is also revered as **Dakshina Ayodhya.**
- **Location**: Located on the banks of the **Godavari River** in the town of **Bhadrachalam in east Telangana**, India.
- **Origin**: Two versions of the establishment of the temple:
  - **First version**: Kancherla Gopanna, also known as **Bhadrachala Ramadasu,** worked as the revenue officer (Tehsildar) under the reign of **Abul Hasan Qutub Shah**, the last sultan of the Golconda (1672-1686) enforced the religious tax Jaziya by order of sultan.
    - The local Hindus of the area criticized Gopanna, and later, he decided to use some portion of this tax to build the temple in the **17th century.**
  - **Other version**: Gopanna observed the dilapidated state of the temple and decided to **repair the temple of Lord Rama.**
    - He thought to c**ompensate the portion of taxes** by raising donations.
    - Gopanna used Bhadrachalam to spread awareness of the tradition of **Vaishnavism** and made it a center of Bhajan tradition.
    - After the death of Gopanna Tumu Lakshmi, **Narasimha Dasu (from Guntur) and his friend Varada Ramadasu (from Kanchipuram)** spent their life there and offered prayers on a daily basis.
- **Central icon**: It is believed that the central icon of the temple has self-manifested, and it features the **four-armed Vaikuntha Rama form of the Lord Vishnu.**
  - **Sita**, the consort of Rama, and his brother Lakshmana also form the part of the central icon.
- **Important festivals celebrated**: The a**nnual Brahmotsavam** is the biggest festival celebrated in Bhadrachalam; the key event is the **Sri Sitarama Thirukalyana Mahotsavam,** or the marriage of Rama and Sita on the eve of Rama Navami.
  - Other important festivals celebrated in Bhadrachalam are **Vaikuntha Ekadashi, Vasanthotsavam, and Vijayadashami.**

PIB

Dec 29

NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Govt. Polices & Interventions)

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya selects part-time members of National Medical Commission (NMC), Autonomous Boards, and Search Committee through draw of lots as per Procedure mentioned in National Medical Commission Act, 2019

Context: Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare took part in the **appointment process of part-time members of National Medical Commission (NMC),** Autonomous Boards, and Search Committee through draw of lots.

- The procedure of appointments is laid down in **National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019.**

National Medical Commission

- **About**: An **Indian regulatory body of 33 members** which regulates medical education and medical professionals.
  - It **replaced the Medical Council of India** on 25 September 2020.
  - It was earlier established for 6 months by an ordinance in January 2019 and later **became a permanent law passed by Parliament of India** and later approved by President of India on 8 August 2019.
- **Functions**: The Commission grants recognition of **medical qualifications, gives accreditation to medical schools, grants registration** to medical practitioners, and monitors medical practice and assesses the medical infrastructure in India.
- **Boards**: The commission consists of **four autonomous boards:**
  - Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB),
  - Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB),
  - Medical Assessment and Rating Board and
  - Ethics and Medical Registration Board
- **Composition**: Consists of 33 members:
  - **A Chairperson**: Medical professionals only.
  - **10 ex officio Members**:
    - The President of the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board.
    - The President of the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board.
    - The President of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
    - The President of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board.
    - The Director General of Health Services, Directorate General of Health Services, New Delhi.
    - The Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research.
    - Director of any of the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences.
    - Two persons from amongst the Directors of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Tata Memorial Hospital, North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, and All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health.
    - One person to represent the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
  - **22 Part-time Members:**
    - Three Members appointed from amongst persons who have special knowledge and professional experience in such areas including management, law, medical ethics, health research, consumer or patient rights advocacy, science and technology and economics.
    - Ten members appointed on rotational basis from amongst the nominees of the states/union territories in the Medical Advisory Council.
    - Nine members appointed from amongst the nominees of the States and Union territories in the Medical Advisory Council.
  - **Mandatory provision**: Of these at least **60% of the members must be medical practitioners.**

PIB

Dec 29

WAPCO COMPANY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Infrastructure)

ADB ranks WAPCOS amongst

Top Consulting Services Firm in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors

Context: In a major breakthrough for **Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited,** a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in its report released on Annual Procurement, ranked WAPCOS as Top amongst Consulting Services Firm in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors, with highest sanctioned financed amount.

- WAPCO, launched in 1969, is a "**Mini Ratna" company** with several projects across India, Asia and Africa.

Key Points

- ADB ranked WAPCOS as **Top amongst Consulting Services Firm** in Water and other Infrastructure Sectors, with highest sanctioned financed amount
- WAPCOS figured amongst the **Top 3 Consultants from India** involved in Consulting Services Contracts under ADB Loan, Grant and Technical Assistance Projects in Energy, Transport and Water & other Urban Infrastructure Sectors.
- WAPCOS is the **only Indian Public Sector** featuring in the above categories.
- WAPCOS is a **leading technology driven Consultancy and Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) organization** in the fields of Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure Development
- The Company has successfully completed/on-going consultancy **assignments in more than 51 Countries** covering Asia, Africa, CIS, Pacific Islands and South America

DST

Dec 29

OMEGA CENTAURI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)

Five generations of high-temperature stars revealed in the largest Milky Way globular cluster Omega Centauri

Context: A strange class of high-temperature stars detected in the **globular cluster Omega Centauri,** the largest-known globular cluster in the Milky Way may provide clues to its formation.

Globular cluster

- The globular clusters are **stellar systems consisting of millions of stars** that are formed from the same gaseous cloud.
- Globular clusters **contain some of the oldest stars** in a galaxy and are thought to have formed early in its history.
- Stars present in this cluster are **homogeneous** in their chemical composition of elemental form.
- Some clusters **deviate from this norm**. One of the examples is Omega Centauri.

Omega Centauri

- Omega Centauri is a **globular cluster in the constellation of Centaurus.**
- It was first identified as a **non-stellar object** by Edmond Halley in 1677 and as globular star cluster orbiting Milky Way galaxy by John Herschel in 1830s.
- Omega Centauri **contains approximately 10 million stars** and is about 16,000 light-years away.
- It also includes **stars of a variety of ages,** whereas other globular clusters contain stars from only one generation.
- **Different from Globular Cluster**- It has several characteristics that mark it as different from the typical globular cluster.
    - For example, Omega Centauri is ten times more massive than other globular clusters.
- It is the largest and brightest globular cluster in the **Milky Way.**

Milky Way Galaxy

- It large s**piral system consisting of several hundred billion stars**, one of which is the Sun.
- It takes its name from the Milky Way, the **irregular luminous band of stars** and gas clouds that stretches across the sky as seen from Earth.
- **Galileo Galilei** first resolved the band of light into individual stars with his telescope in 1610.

THANK YOU!

t.me/theiashub

/mkyadav

www.theiashub.com/daily-quiz

9560082909