

GEOGRAPHY**Gogabeel is Bihar's first community reserve**

Gogabeel is an ox-bow lake in Bihar's Katihar district. It has been declared as the state's first 'Community Reserve'. The water body was also been notified as both Community Reserve and a conservation reserve.

Gogabeel

- Gogabeel is formed from the flow of the rivers Mahananda and Kankhar in the north and the Ganga in the south and east. It is the fifteenth Protected Area (PA) in Bihar.
- Gogabeel is a permanent waterbody although it shrinks to some extent in the summer but never dries completely. More than 90 bird species have been recorded from this site of which about 30 are migratory.
- Conservation reserves and community reserves in India are terms denoting protected areas of India which typically act as buffer zones between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests of India.
- Such areas are designated as conservation areas if they are uninhabited and completely owned by the Government of India but used for subsistence by communities and community areas if part of the lands are privately owned.
- The administration of such reserves would be through local people and local agencies like the gram panchayat.
- An oxbow lake is a crescent-shaped lake lying alongside a winding river. The oxbow lake is created over time as erosion and deposits of soil change the river's course.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN).**

- A joint committee of Naga civil society groups has warned the Nagaland government against changing the cut-off date for including people in the RIIN
- The Nagaland government had, through a notification on June 29, 2019, decided to undertake the exercise to update the RIIN with December 1, 1963, as the cut-off date for inclusion of people in the register.
- RIIN is a master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the State of Nagaland with the aim of preventing fake indigenous inhabitants' certificates.
- Based on detailed survey, it will have records of indigenous residents from rural and urban areas
- The process will be done as part of the online system of Inner Line Permit (ILP), which is already in force in Nagaland.
- This provisional list will then be collated and published on the government websites by September 11, 2019
- Unique Identity: All indigenous inhabitants of Nagaland would be issued a barcoded indigenous inhabitant certificate

Jammu and Kashmir delimitation process kicks off

Election Commission (EC) has held internal discussions on the delimitation of constituencies ahead of elections to the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Delimitation:

- Delimitation means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats. Population is the basis of redrawing of boundaries and allocation of seats.
- This task of delimitation is assigned to a four-member Delimitation Commission of which one of the members represents the EC.
- According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the UT of J&K would be increased from 107 to 114. The Act also specifies that delimitation will be based on the 2011 census till 2026.
- The act also carries a provision for introduction of reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

- The exercise of delimitation will be carried out in J&K after over two decades. Although the rest of the country had undergone delimitation in 2002, J&K Assembly had passed a law putting a freeze on fresh delimitation of seats until 2026.

GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.

City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters

Six cities — Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Jodhpur, Pune, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad will be development as City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters.

- The project is led by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) on a priority basis.
- These clusters will provide a connect between the existing research and knowledge setups at institutions and various industries that exist in the city or state.
 - A huge amount of knowledge and fiscal resources exist within a city or region. If these independent entities connect through a virtual platform, optimisation of resources can be achieved and various sectors will be able to work in partnership.
- The project will assist industries in gaining access to existing technology, and help academic institutions and R&D facilities commercialise this technology.
- Under the project each city cluster will have a nodal office headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who will be selected by the stakeholders. Government officials, such as municipal commissioners, will also be a part of the city cluster.
 - The nodal offices will be run and funded by the PSA's office for the first three years, within which time the stakeholders will have to look at how to make the initiative independent of government funding and sustainable.
- The aim of the project is that over a period of time, city clusters will be able to bid for international projects and seek international funding from organisations like the World Bank.
- To enhance collaboration of research and facilities in the clusters, the government is also planning to set up I-Stemm (a web portal which will function as a nationwide inventory of all public funded institutions) as well as all scientific instruments and infrastructure.
- It can be noted that, Chandigarh has already experimented with a version of the project called Chandigarh Region Innovation Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) where the city has opened its laboratories to students of Panjab University. The Chandigarh model has done well and the government is looking to extend it to the rest of the state

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Plight of Foreign National Prisoners

Recently, the Delhi High Court has ordered the Central government to have the speediest communication with the embassy of the respective countries of the foreign inmates who are in Indian jails.

- According to recent data, 75% of foreign national inmates imprisoned in jails of Delhi struggle in accessing their embassy or consulate concerned after their arrest.
- Though FNPs are entitled to the basic minimum guarantees as enshrined in the Constitution of India, but FNPs in India faces several issues: ◦ They often face a range of difficulties due to differences in language, culture, customs, religion or because of lack of family ties locally.
 - 90% of FNPs conveyed that they faced difficulty in securing bail merely because of their special status or due to “ever-inherent specific concern” that they may be difficult to locate if they get out on bail.
 - Only 5.7% of FNPs in India (222 out of 3,908), have ever received consular access.
- The Indian legal system does not create a distinction between Indian nationals and foreign nationals, especially in grants of bail. In this context, the Government must take concrete steps to remove this discrimination.

Suggestions

- In case FNPs are not granted bail their cases may be expedited.
- As soon as a foreign national is arrested in a major crime, the offense should be brought to the notice of the MEA through the State government by the DGP/CP concerned.

- Police and prison authorities must be made aware of the mandatory requirements and the form in which such a process would be required to be carried out.
- Ministry of External Affairs may request the consulates to visit their nationals to enable them to discharge their duties under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Taxes and India's Equity Market

Recently, the Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI) has requested the government to withdraw the Long Term Capital Gains Tax and Securities Transaction Tax.

- It highlighted the issues in taxation related to India's equity market, which makes the Indian capital market unattractive globally.
 - India is the only country to levy a tax on equity trading in the form of Securities Transaction Tax (STT).
 - Dividends, currently are taxed thrice in the form of corporate tax, dividend distribution tax and finally at the investor level, i.e Securities Transaction Tax (STT).
- Corporate Tax: It is levied on a firm's profit by the government.
 - It is taxed on operating earnings after expenses have been deducted.
 - The rate of corporate tax in India varies from one type of company to another i.e. domestic corporations and foreign corporations pay tax at different rates (25-50%)
- Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT): Dividend refers to the distribution of profits to shareholders of a company.
 - Thus, the dividend distribution tax is a type of tax that is payable on the dividends offered to its shareholders by the corporate.
 - Higher dividends mean a greater tax burden for the corporate entity.
 - Presently, the dividend distribution tax that is payable on the dividends offered to a company's shareholders is 15% of the gross amount distributed as dividend
- Securities Transaction Tax(STT): It is a tax levied at the time of purchase and sale of securities listed on stock exchanges in India.
 - Both purchaser and seller both need to pay 0.1% of share value as STT.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Centre had recently amended the Company Law to make CSR spend mandatory for companies. It also stipulated that non-compliance could be treated as a criminal offence and attract penalties. A High-Level Committee CSR constituted in Sep 2018 under the chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas to review the existing framework on CSR has submitted its report

Some of its recommendations include

- CSR spends should be eligible for tax deduction under the income tax law. Currently, income tax law does not allow CSR spends as tax deductible amount.
- Allowing the carry-forward of unspent balance for a period of 3-5 years
- Aligning Schedule 7 of the Companies Act (which outlines the kinds of activities that qualify as CSR) with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Companies having CSR-prescribed amount below Rs.50 lakh may be exempted from constituting a CSR Committee
- Violation of CSR compliance may be made a civil offence and shifted to the penalty regime.
- Introducing impact assessment studies for CSR obligations of Rs.5 crore
- Registration of implementation agencies on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs portal

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Army launches 'Mission Reach Out' in Jammu

- The Indian Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu.
- The mission aims to ensure basic necessities and essential services are available in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The numerous initiatives undertaken by the Army under 'Mission Reach Out' are
 - mobile medical care units with essential medicines and lady medical officers

- assistance in the transportation of patients to hospitals
- facilitating people to speak to their near ones through Army exchange and
- creating a safe environment for ATMs, banks and hospitals to function.

ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**Online Land Revenue Payment System Introduced In Odisha**

Recently Odisha Govt inaugurated the much-awaited online land revenue payment system from the Loka Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar .

Highlights

- The new system will come to the rescue of people including farmers who earlier had to face difficulties in paying their land revenue.
- The online land revenue payment system has been developed by NIC Bhubaneswar.
- As the system is simple, farmers can make payments within minutes and get receipts.
- This is the first of its kind initiative by the Revenue department under the Odisha government's 5-T mantra to provide better services to the people.
- Gandhi's Talisman is inscribed on a brass plate in both English and Odia and it also carries a portrait of the Father of the Nation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

If we don't take responsibility of what happens to our society, then no amount of Independence can improve human condition.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: What do you understand by corporate social responsibility? What relationship does corporate governance share with corporate social responsibility?

Answer: Corporate social responsibility is a business approach to contribute to sustainable development by delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for all stakeholders. IT is generally understood that following the principles of corporate governance will eventually lead to CSR. The Companies Act prescribes a mandatory CSR spend of 2% of average net profits for companies.

Relation between CG and CSR:

Similarities:

- CG is usually incorporated in the company's governance mechanisms.
- Both these concepts focus on the ethical aspects of doing business.
- They lead to better image of the company and thus affects its performance positively.

Differences:

- Fulfilling CSR norms but faulting on Corporate Governance is usually seen. Here, CSR is used as a marketing strategy than genuine intention in helping all round development.
- CG is related to profit maximisation while CSR is about sharing the profits for others' welfare.
- The officials of an organisation who are hired with due technical qualifications may not fulfil its CSR mandates.

It has to be remembered that CG may not eventually lead to CSR. If a company visualises its long term growth in terms of allround welfare, it may incorporate CSR principles into its CG strategy.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIR BASED MCOS

1. Consider the following statements w.r.t the Gogabeel lake.
 1. It is an Ox-bow lake located in Uttar Pradesh.
 2. It has been recently declared as a Community ReserveWhich of the statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Which of the following cities have been decided to be developed as City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters?
 1. Bhubaneswar
 2. Chandigarh
 3. JodhpurSelect the correct answer using codes given below
 - e) 1 and 2
 - f) 1 and 3
 - g) 2 and 3
 - h) 1, 2 and 3**
3. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Corporate Tax?
 1. It is levied on a firm's profit by the government.
 2. It is taxed on operating earnings after expenses have been deducted.
 3. The rate of corporate tax in India varies from one type of company to anotherSelect the correct answer using codes given below
 - i) 1 and 2
 - j) 1 and 3
 - k) 2 and 3
 - l) 1, 2 and 3**
4. 'Mission Reach Out' of the Indian Army is related to which state?
 - m) Bihar
 - n) Nagaland
 - o) Punjab
 - p) Jammu and Kashmir**
5. Injeti Srinivas Committee is related to which of the following aspects?
 - q) Monetary Policy
 - r) Corporate Social Responsibility**
 - s) NBFC Regulation
 - t) Mutual Funds