

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022/PART-5

### **Appointment of Supreme Court Judges**

For the first time in the history of the Supreme Court, nine judges have taken oath simultaneously.

With the swearing-in of nine new judges, the total number of judges in the Supreme Court, including the Chief Justice, has gone up to 33. It may be noted that the maximum number of judges in the Supreme Court has been fixed at 34.

Among the judges who took oath were three women judges, one of whom, Justice B.V. Nagarathna may take over as the Chief Justice of India in the year 2027. In addition, for the first time, four women judges will function simultaneously in the apex court.

For the first time, the Supreme Court allowed the live telecast of the swearing-in ceremony.

### **'Collegium System':**

The 'collegium system', a system of appointment and transfer of judges, has evolved through decisions of the Supreme Court rather than being constituted by an Act of Parliament or any provision of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court Collegium is presided over by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), and includes four other senior-most judges of

the Court.

The High Court Collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court and consists of four other senior-most judges of the court concerned.

### **Related Constitutional Provisions:**

Article 124(2) of the Constitution of India provides that after consultation with such Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts of the States as the President may consider necessary to be consulted for the purpose, the President shall issue a warrant under his hand and seal. shall appoint every Judge of the Supreme Court.

Article 217 of the Constitution of India states that the Chief Justice of a High Court shall be appointed by the President, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of that State, and in the case of appointments of Judges of the High Court other than the Chief Justice, concerned after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court.

### **Development of Collegium System in Judiciary:**

First Judges Case - 1981: It stipulated that the "primeness" of the suggestion of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) on judicial appointments and transfers can be rejected if "irrefutable arguments" exist. This

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decision has established the primacy of the executive over the judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.

Second Judges Case-1993: The Supreme Court introduced the collegium system by clarifying that the word 'consultation' actually means "consent". In this case, the Supreme Court further said that it would not be the personal opinion of the Chief Justice (CJI) but an institutional opinion taken in consultation with the two senior most judges of the Supreme Court.

8th death of a dolphin in Chilka Lake in the last 8 months.

About Irrawaddy Dolphins:

- 'Irrawaddy dolphins' are listed as 'endangered' or endangered according to the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Thailand.

Third Judges Case- 1998: After the reference issued by the President in the year 1998, the Supreme Court expanded the collegium as a five-member body, consisting of the Chief Justice of India and his four senior most aides.

### **Irrawaddy Dolphin**

Recently, the largest saltwater lake in India, Irrawaddy dolphins were found dead in 'Chilika Lake' located off the Odisha coast. This is the

- Irrawaddy Dolphins, found in coastal areas of South and Southeast Asia, and in three rivers: Irrawaddy (Myanmar), Mahakam River (Indonesian Borneo) and Mekong River (China)
- The concentric lagoon population of 'Irrawaddy dolphin' is found in Lake Odisha and Songkhla Lake in southern

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### About Chilka Lake:

- Chilka is the largest lagoon in Asia and the second largest in the world.
- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds in the Indian subcontinent and is home to many endangered plant and fauna species.
- In the year 1981, Chilka Lake was designated as the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- The major attraction of Chilka are the Irrawaddy dolphins which are often seen in the cashews of Satpara Island.
- There is a Nalbana Island (Sarkando Forest) in about 16 sq km of this lagoon area, which was declared a 'Bird Sanctuary' in the year 1987.
- Kalijai Temple – situated on an island in Chilika Lake.

### Long wait for appointment to the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

reference:

The post of Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha is lying vacant for the last several months.

### Related case:

- Recently, the Delhi High Court has directed the Central Government to clarify its stand on the issue of non-conduct of elections to the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha. It may be noted that the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha is vacant since last 830 days.
- Keeping the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha vacant is a violation of Article 93 of the Indian Constitution.
- The Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha enjoys the same legislative powers as the Speaker of the House, and in the absence

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of the Speaker due to death, illness or any other reason, the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha assumes administrative powers.

- The election of the Deputy Speaker is the responsibility of the House.
- In recent times, according to parliamentary tradition, the post of Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is usually elected by a member of the main opposition party in the House.
- The delay in the election of deputy speaker has been attributed to the lack of power of the opposition to choose the candidate of their choice and the indifferent attitude of the present central government to nominate a suitable candidate for the post of deputy speaker.
- At present, when the Speaker is not present for the proceedings in the House, a member of the 'Lok Sabha Speaker's Panel' presides over the House.
- In the Constitution, a provision has been made to constitute a panel of 10 members to preside over the proceedings of the Lok Sabha in the absence of the Speaker.

### **About Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha:**

Article 93 of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

- The constitutional office of the Deputy

Speaker of the Lok Sabha is a symbolic office of parliamentary democracy rather than a real authority.

- A person has to be impartial when elected as vice-president, although he is not required to resign from his parent political party.

### **Role & Functions:**

In the event of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha on leave or death due to illness or absence for any reason, the Deputy Speaker discharges the functions as the presiding Speaker.

### **Election:**

- Usually, in the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after the general elections, the Deputy Speaker is elected from among the members of the Lok Sabha.
- The post of Deputy Speaker is given to a leader of the opposition party, as per mutual consent agreed upon in the Parliament.

### **Tenure and Resignation:**

Like the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Speaker also holds the office throughout the life of the House. However, he can resign his office under the following three conditions:

1. when he ceases to be a member of the House;

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2. By resignation under his hand addressed to the Speaker;

3. On removal from office by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha. But, before passing this resolution, it is mandatory to give notice to him 14 days in advance.

### **Dhrupad music**

Dhrupad is the oldest form of Hindustani classical music that survives in its original form till date.

Dhrupad music is spiritual in nature. Its purpose is not to entertain, but to create peace and spiritual feelings in the listener.

It is mainly a form of worship, in which offerings are made to the divine through sound or sound.

Initially, Dhrupad was sung only in front of the idol of God in temples. Dhrupad, from this early rendition, has evolved into a sophisticated classical form of music.

### **features:**

It emphasizes on maintaining the purity of the raga.

Sometime between the 12th and 16th centuries, the language of Dhrupad changed from Sanskrit to Brajhasha.

### **Origin of Dhrupad**

It is a form of devotional music, and its

origin is found in the ancient text Samveda. The slokas of the Samaveda were sung with a raga and tala, which was called 'Samagan'.

Gradually, 'prabandha' and 'chhand' started being used in it, which led to the development of other singing styles. The fusion of these two elements gave rise to the Dhrupad style.

### **Dhrupad during medieval period:**

In medieval India, Dhrupad mainly flourished under the patronage of the Mughal and Rajput kings. Later, the trend of dhrupad declined as the music listeners shifted to the 'Khyal' style.

### **performance of dhrupad**

Dhrupad is performed in two parts: Alap and Bandish. In alap, the singer uses syllables from a Sanskrit mantra, which he mixes with the sound. The raga gradually and systematically develops into a meditative state.

### **"Logistics Agreement"**

Logistics Agreements are administrative arrangements based on mutual agreements between countries concerned to use military facilities for the exchange of fuel.

Through these agreements, logistical support is facilitated and India can be swiftly transported and brought back

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operational material during military operations off its border.

India has signed several logistics agreements with all the Quad countries, France, Singapore and South Korea, starting with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with the US in 2016.

### **Advantages of Logistics Agreements:**

The Navy has got the maximum benefit of these administrative arrangements. Due to the 'Logistics Agreements' signed with several countries, there has been an improvement in the capability to carry and carry operational material and, the Navy's inter-operability in the deep seas off the Indian border has increased.

### **What is 'LEMOA'?**

This is a specially designed version for India of the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA) signed by the US with countries having several military-supportive relations.

The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) is one of the 'Three Basic Agreements' signed between India and the US.

LEMOA allows both countries to use designated military facilities on either side for the purpose of refueling and replenishment of essential materials.

### **Basic agreements between India and**

### **America:**

So far, India has signed three basic agreements with the US:

Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement- LEMOA

Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement -COMCASA

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed a long time ago. An extension to the Industrial Security Annex-ISA, expanding GSOMIA, was signed in the last 2+2 negotiations.

### **Manda Buffalo**

The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) has recognized the Manda buffalo as the 19th unique breed of buffalo found in India.

This breed is found in the plateau of Eastern Ghats and Koraput region of Odisha.

Manda buffaloes are resistant to parasitic infections, less susceptible to diseases and can survive on meager resources.

### **Thamirabani Civilization**

Tamraparni /thamirabrani/ Porunai is a perennial river flowing in Tamil Nadu, originating in the Western Ghats (Agasthyarkudam peak of Pothigai hills) and joining the sea in Gulf of Mannar after passing through Tirunelveli and

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Thoothukudi districts. .

Rivers have had a unique association with civilizations. The Thamirabarani civilization in the southern district of Tirunelveli is no exception.

### **Reason for discussion:**

Carbon-dating results from a US-based laboratory have put the unearthed remains of this ancient civilization in Tamil Nadu at least 3,200 years old.

It is probably the oldest civilization, and even older than the 'Vaigai Civilization', believed to be 2,600 years old.

CRISPR technology to control the growth of mosquitoes

California-based researchers have developed a 'Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeat' (CRISPR)-based system to safely control mosquitoes through sterilization. This is called the new 'Precision-Guided Sterile Insect Technique' or pgSIT.

### **Procedure:**

Precision-guided non-species insect technology (pgSIT), a new method of scalable genetic control, uses a CRISPR-based method of releasing 'cultured mosquitoes' at designated sites to suppress mosquito populations.

In this technique, the gene associated with the fertility of the male insect is changed, so that the new generation of the cultured insect is not able to reproduce, i.e. becomes 'sterile'. In this way, female mosquitoes of *Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito species responsible for spreading widespread diseases including dengue fever, chikungunya and Zika, do not produce new mosquitoes.

In 'PGSIT' CRISPR is used to sterilize/sterilize male mosquitoes, and female mosquitoes that carry disease are made sterile.

### **Importance of this technique:**

pgSIT cultured eggs can be sent to a site prone to mosquito-borne disease, or these gene-cultured eggs can be developed at a single site to be released to nearby sites.

After the release of pgSIT cultured eggs in open spaces, cultured male mosquitoes with no fertility are produced. When these mosquitoes mate with female mosquitoes, no eggs will be produced and thus the mosquito population will be reduced as needed.

### **What is CRISPR technology?**

'Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats' (CRISPR) is basically a 'Gene Editing Technique', it is used to

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correct genetic defects and prevent and treat the spread of diseases.

### **Importance:**

CRISPR technology is a simple yet powerful tool for genome editing. This technology enables researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function. This technology can also be configured to detect many other pathogens in the future. However, its use also brings up 'ethical concerns'.

### **How does this technology work?**

CRISPR technology works like a 'cut-and-paste' mechanism on DNA fibers that carry genetic information.

- The part of the genetic code that needs to be 'edited' or 'changed' is marked on the coiled strands of DNA, then the 'Cas9 protein', (which acts like a scissor) is used. While doing that the marked part is cut off from the coiled fibers.
- Coiled strands of DNA have a natural tendency to self-repair when fragmented or broken.
- This process of self-repair or reconstruction is intervened by scientists, and the desired sequence or change in the genetic code is accomplished, and eventually this desired sequence is established on the broken DNA filaments.

### **Related concerns and issues:**

1. This technique becomes controversial when used in humans. Leading scientists in the field have long called for a "global pause" on 'clinical applications of the technology on humans' until internationally accepted protocols are developed.
2. Studies have shown that cells edited with CRISPR-Cas9 technology can give rise to cancer.
3. This technique may increase the risk of genome mutations elsewhere, in those processed cells.
4. Many things are still unclear about this technique, such as how to determine which disease or trait is suitable for gene editing.
5. Ethical Concerns: In addition, there are concerns about human embryos being manipulated for their own benefit.

### **Subansiri Hydroelectric Project (LSHP)**

The Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project (SLHEP) is an under-construction gravity dam on the Subansiri River that flows along the border of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Subansiri River (Golden River), originates in the Tibetan Plateau and enters India flowing through the Miri Hills in Arunachal Pradesh.

It is the largest tributary of the



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Brahmaputra River.

The project is being developed by the state-run National Water Power Corporation (NHPC).

When completed, it will be India's only 'largest hydroelectric power plant'. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

### **Project related disputes:**

The protest over the under-construction hydroelectric project is seen as a far-reaching anti-dam movement. It is alleged that the dam is located in a seismic zone and has not been designed to bear the required capacity to withstand earthquakes.

The fluctuating water level in the river is also expected to affect the ecology of the lower Subansiri region in future.

### **Battle of Saragarhi**

On 12th September this year 'Battle of Saragarhi' completed 124 years. The armies of the country and abroad take inspiration from this battle, and many books have been written on it and many films have also been made.

### **About 'Battle of Saragarhi':**

The Battle of Saragarhi was fought on 12 September 1897. It is considered one of the finest final fronts in the world's military history.

Twenty-one soldiers of the British Army fought more than 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribal fighters in this battle, and they did not allow the fort to be captured for seven hours.

However, despite being significantly reduced in count, the soldiers of the 36th Sikh Platoon under Havildar Ishar Singh fought till their last breath, in which 200 tribals were killed and over 600 were badly injured.

### **Significance of Saragarhi:**

The Saragarhi Fort was a communication fort between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan.

Situated in the rugged 'North West Frontier Province' (NWFP), both these forts (now in Pakistan) were built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, later renamed by the British.

In these two important forts, the fort of Saragarhi, which housed a large number of British soldiers stationed in the rugged area of the 'North West Frontier Province', was instrumental in maintaining contact between these two forts.

### **Legacy of this war:**

There was a tradition of not awarding gallantry medals posthumously in Britain. Breaking this tradition, Queen Victoria gave Rs 500 each, two 'marba' (50 acres) of land

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and the 'Indian Order of Merit' (Indian Order of Merit) to the 21 martyred soldiers of the 36th Sikh Platoon - excluding the one who served non-military. Medal similar to the Victoria Cross).

After a few days, the British recaptured the fort and built a memorial pillar for the martyrs from the burnt bricks of Saragarhi.

The British established Gurdwaras in Amritsar and Ferozpur in honor of these martyrs.

### **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)**

Recently, former IPS officer Iqbal Singh Lalpura has been elected as the chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM).

#### **About NCM:**

- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has been established by the Central Government under the 'National Commission for Minorities Act', 1992.
- This commission oversees the working of safeguards taken to protect and safeguard the interests of minorities as provided in the Constitution of India and as per law enacted by Parliament and State Legislatures.

Please note, six religious communities, viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains have been notified as Minority

Communities in the Gazette of India by the Central Government throughout India.

#### **background:**

The formation of Minorities Commission was envisaged in the resolution letter of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 1978.

- In the year 1984, the 'Minorities Commission' was separated from the Ministry of Home Affairs and placed under the newly created 'Ministry of Public Welfare'.

- In the year 1992, the 'National Commission for Minorities Act (NCM Act), 1992' was enacted, and 'Minorities Commission' got the status of a statutory body and renamed as 'National Commission for Minorities' (NCM). given.

- In the year 1993, five religious communities viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis were notified as minority communities.

- Thereafter, the Jain community was also notified as a minority community under the notification of the Central Government on January 27, 2014.

#### **Composition of the Commission:**

- The 'National Commission for Minorities' consists of a chairman, a vice-chairman and five members and all of them are elected from minority communities.

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- Apart from these, seven other eminent, qualified and honest members are nominated by the Central Government in the Commission.

- Each member holds office for a term of three years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

### **Other constitutional provisions for the protection of minorities:**

- Articles 15 and 16
- Article 25                      • Article 26
- Article 28                      • Article 29
- Article 30                      • Article 350-B:

This article was added to the Constitution by the 7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956. In this, provision has been made for the appointment of a special officer by the President of India for linguistic minorities.

Minority schools are exempted from implementing the 'Right to Education Policy' and are also not covered under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of the government.

### **'Groundswell' report on climate change**

Recently, the 'Groundswell' report on climate change has been released by the World Bank. It describes how the effects of slow-onset climate change, such as water scarcity, declining crop productivity and sea level rise, could affect millions of people by

2050.

### **Key points and conclusions of the report:**

**The report describes different aspects of climate action and development under three different scenarios as "climate migrants". This includes:**

Most pessimistic scenario with high levels of emissions and uneven development: The report estimates, based on analysis, that 216 million populations in six regions of the world may have to migrate to other countries within their own countries. These six regions, Latin America; North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; Eastern Europe and Central Asia; South Asia; and East Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

Most climate-friendly scenario, including low emissions and inclusive, sustainable development: Even in this situation, 44 million of the world's population may be forced to leave their homes.

Worst Scenario: Sub-Saharan Africa will be the most vulnerable region and likely to have the highest number of migrations due to desertification, weak coastal coastlines and population reliance on agriculture, with 86 million population within their countries' borders. may be displaced within.

### **Other Effects:**

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Hotspots of internal climate migration are likely to be largely visible by 2030 and will continue to expand rapidly through 2050.

The report also provides a series of policy recommendations that can help prepare for slowing climate migration factors and deal with expected migration flows.

### **These recommendations include:**

To reduce global emissions and make every effort to meet the temperature targets of the Paris Agreement.

Incorporating internal climate migration into a visionary, green, resilient and inclusive development plan.

Prepare for each stage of migration so as to achieve positive development outcomes of internal climate migration as an adaptation strategy.

Investing in a better understanding of the factors of internal climate migration to formulate well-targeted policies.

### **National Engineer Day**

Every year on 15 September, National Engineers Day is celebrated in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania to recognize and honor the achievements of the great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

The day is celebrated to celebrate the great work of engineers and encourage them to improve and innovate.

'M Visvesvaraya' was born on September 15, 1861 in Muddanahalli village, Karnataka.

### **About Sir M Visvesvaraya:**

An expert in irrigation techniques and flood disaster management, 'Sir M Visvesvaraya' was a great civil engineer, and also served the state as the 19th Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1919.

While serving as the Diwan of Mysore, he was awarded the title of 'Knight' by 'King George V' as the commander of the British Indian Empire in the year 1915.

### **Major Contribution:**

He installed and patented an irrigation system with 'water floodgates' in the Khadakwasla reservoir near Pune in the year 1903.

The same system was installed at the Tigma Dam in Gwalior and the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Dam in Mysuru. After which the 'Krishnaraj Sagar Dam' became one of the largest reservoirs in Asia at that time.

He was instrumental in laying the foundation of the Government Engineering College in Bangalore in the year 1917. The college was later renamed as 'University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering' (UVCE) after him.

He had prepared a plan for the construction of a road between 'Tirumala and Tirupati'.

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He was instrumental in developing a system to protect Visakhapatnam port from sea erosion.

He also commissioned several new railway lines in the state of Mysore.

He designed and built waterworks for the 'Sukkur Municipality' in 1895.

### **His legacy:**

For his contribution to the making of India, the government honored him with India's highest honor 'Bharat Ratna' in the year 1955.

An armored vehicle used in World War II was invented by Tata Steel engineers, the vehicle was able to withstand gunfire. Marking the significant contribution of Sir Visvesvaraya in this invention, in the year 2018, Google launched a doodle on his birthday in memory of his important works.

He was awarded Honorary Membership of the London Institution of Civil Engineers for 50 consecutive years.

### **Books written by him:**

'Reconstructing India' and 'Planned Economy of India'.

'National Trust'

The National Trust is a statutory body of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

It has been established under the 'National Trust Act, 1999' for the welfare of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities.

The 'National Trust' (National Trust) has been established mainly to discharge two fundamental duties - 'legal' and 'welfare'.

### **Aims and Objectives of 'National Trust':**

The following are the specific objectives of the National Trust:-

To build an inclusive society that values human diversity and enables persons with disabilities to freely participate in rights and opportunities, with dignity and freedom.

To ensure equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation in society for persons with disabilities.

Support registered organizations to provide services based on the needs of persons with disabilities; And

Developing a process of trusteeship and appointment of guardians of persons with disabilities.

### **Disability under the 'National Trust Act' (NTA):**

The 'National Trust' works for the welfare of persons suffering from any one of the following four disabilities:

**1. Autism,**

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2. Cerebral Palsy,

3. Mental Retardation and

4. Multiple Disabilities

### 'IPO gray market'

Recently, 'Grey Market' was being mentioned in various articles. The merchant class is highly interested in gray market stocks, as this method gives them an opportunity to take advantage of the volatility of a company's shares before they are listed.

Also, any movement in the 'grey market' is usually taken as an indicator of the direction in which the stock price will be after listing. The price before the shares are issued in the market can be used to predict the demand for the shares.

### What is 'IPO Gray Market'?

Generally, when companies want to raise funds to accelerate their growth, they sell part of their stock in the stock market. This process is called 'Initial Public Offering' or 'IPO'.

But, the 'IPO gray market' is an informal market in which 'IPO shares or applications are bought and sold before they are available for trading on the stock market'.

It is also called 'parallel market' or 'over-the-counter market'.

### Its Validity and Administration:

Since the 'IPO gray market' is an informal market, it is natural that there are no rules to regulate it. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), stock exchanges and brokers have no role in this. They are bought and sold privately in the form of cash.

### What is the 'costak rate'?

The 'Kostak rate' is related to the IPO application. Hence, the rate at which an investor buys 'IPO applications' before listing is called 'costak rate' or 'kostak rate'.

### Why do investors trade in the 'grey market'?

When investors think that the price of a company's shares is about to rise, it is an excellent opportunity for them to buy shares of the company even before it is listed.

If an investor misses the deadline for IPO application or wants to buy more shares, they can approach the IPO gray market.

### What are the benefits for companies in this?

For companies, the gray market is a great way to find out how their shares are in demand and how a company's shares may perform once they are listed.

In addition, an 'IPO gray market' can be used to know about the performance of a

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company's stock after it is listed.

### **Related concerns:**

IPO gray market, an informal market, operates outside the jurisdiction of SEBI.

Hence no guarantee is given in this.

All transactions are done on the basis of trust and counterparty risk.

Therefore, there is very little legal protection available to the parties in case the stock tanked i.e. the stock underperforms.

### **5G Technology**

5G technology is the next generation of mobile broadband. This technology will eventually replace or significantly enhance 4G LTE connections.

### **Features and benefits of 5G technology:**

This technology works on the 'Millimeter Wave Spectrum' (30-300 GHz), by which very large amounts of data can be sent at very high speed.

5G technology works in three bands namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum.

Multi-Gbps transfer rates and ultra-low latency will support applications that harness the power of 5G technology, Internet of Things (IoT), and artificial intelligence.

The increased capacity of 5G networks can

reduce the impact of load spikes, such as those that occur during sporting events and news events.

### **Importance of Technology:**

India's National Digital Communications Policy 2018 highlights the importance of 5G, stating that an incremental start-up community including 5G, cloud, Internet of Things (IoT) and data analytics, opens up a new horizon of opportunities. and promises to intensify and deepen digital engagement.

### **Potential health risks from 5G:**

To date, and after a lot of research has been done, no adverse health effects from exposure to wireless technologies have been found.

Tissue heating is the main mechanism of interaction between radiofrequency fields and the human body. Current technologies lead to a negligible increase in human body temperature due to exposure to radiofrequency levels.

As the radio frequency increases, its penetration into the body's tissues decreases and the absorption of energy is limited to the surface of the body (skin and eyes).

If the overall exposure to radiofrequency levels remains below international guidelines, public health is unlikely to be

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affected.

### **What are the 'International Exposure Guidelines'?**

Exposure guidelines for electromagnetic fields are prepared by two international bodies. Many countries currently follow the guidelines suggested by:

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers through International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety

These guidelines are not technology-specific. They cover radiofrequency up to 300 GHz, which also includes frequencies related to 5G technology.

### **International effort – “International Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Project”:**

An 'International Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)' project was established by WHO in the year 1996. This project investigates the health effects of exposure to electric and magnetic fields in the 0-300 GHz frequency range and advises national authorities on EMF radiation protection.

### **conch shell-(Shankhalipi)**

Recently, archaeologists have found inscriptions engraved in 'Shankhalipi' on the steps of an ancient Gupta temple in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh.

These inscriptions mention 'Shri Mahendraditya', which was the title of 'Kumragupta I', the ruler of the Gupta dynasty.

### **Importance of latest discoveries:**

Two figurative/ornamental pillars adjacent to each other have been found at the 'Bilsad' preserved site in Etah, with human figures engraved on these pillars.

The discovery assumes significance as only two other structural temples—the Dashavatar temple (Devgarh) and the Bhitargaon temple (Kanpur Dehat)—have been found so far in the Gupta period.

### **Who was 'Kumragupta I'?**

Kumaragupta I ruled north-central India for 40 years in the fifth century.

He was the son of Gupta emperor Chandragupta II and queen Dhruvadevi.

Kumaragupta had organized 'Ashwamedha Yagya' during his reign.

He probably subdued the 'Aulikaras' of central India and the 'Traikutakas' of western India.

According to the description given in the Bhitari pillar inscription, his successor Skandagupta brought the dwindling prestige of the Gupta dynasty back to the top.

### **Administration:**

Kumaragupta I assumed the title of



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'Maharaja', and divided his empire into various provinces (bhuktis), appointed governors (uparikas) for these bhaktis, and uparikas were loyal and accountable to the king.

The provinces (bhukti) were divided into districts (vishayas), which were administered by the district magistrate (vishayapati). There was an advisory council for the Vishayapatis to assist in the administration, which included the following officials:

City President or Mayor (Nagar-shreshtin)

Representatives of Merchants Association (Sarthvaha)

Head of the Craftsmen Association (First-Kulik)

head of the association of writers or clerks (pratham-kayastha)

### **About Shankhalipi:**

The 'Shankhalipi' or "shell-script", expressing ornate spiral letters/characters, in this script look like 'conch', and is believed to be derived from the Brahmi script.

- Inscriptions inscribed in this script are found in north-central India and are dated to between the 4th and 8th centuries.
- The number of letters / letters in these inscriptions is very less, this indicates that

one's name or auspicious symbol or combination of both has been engraved on these inscriptions.

- This script was discovered by the English scholar James Prinsep in 1836 on a brass trident at Barahat, Uttarakhand. James Prinsep was the founder-editor of the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal'.

Recognition/de-recognition of political parties,

### **reference:**

The Delhi High Court has sought response of the Central Government, Delhi Government and the Election Commission on a petition seeking de-recognition of the Aam Aadmi Party for organizing Ganesh Chaturthi events using public money.

### **Related case:**

In a petition filed in the Delhi High Court, for de-recognition of the 'Aam Aadmi Party' (AAP) as a party due to the alleged willful violation of the 'Constitution' and 'Representation of the People Act' by the petitioner and in the interest of the public, Chief Minister Arvind There has been a demand to remove Kejriwal and other ministers from the constitutional post.

### **Registration of Political Parties:**

The registration of political parties is done under the provisions of section 29A of the

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Representation of the People Act, 1951.

For registration of a political party, its establishment has to be submitted within 30 days before the Election Commission of India under the relevant section, as per the prescribed guidelines. For this, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Election Commission of India issues guidelines.

### **Eligibility for 'National Political Party' of India:**

1. For a political party to be recognized as a national party, it is necessary to secure a minimum of six percent of the valid votes polled in the general elections or assembly elections held in any four or more states.
2. Apart from this, for this, a minimum of four seats in the Lok Sabha should be won from any state or states.
3. The political party has won 2 percent of the total Lok Sabha seats (11 members out of the present strength of 543 members) in the Lok Sabha elections and these members have been elected from at least three different states .

### **Eligibility for 'State Level Political Party':**

1. For a political party to be recognized as a

'State level political party', it is necessary to secure a minimum of six percent of the total valid votes polled in the elections to the Lok Sabha or the Legislative Assembly held in the state.

2. In addition, for this, at least two seats should be won in the Legislative Assembly of the respective state.
3. For a political party, in the elections to the State Legislative Assembly, 3% of the total seats or 3 seats, whichever is higher, should be secured.

### **Benefit:**

1. A registered party recognized as a 'State Level Political Party', has the privilege of allotting a reserved symbol for the party to its candidates in the State concerned.
2. A registered party recognized as a 'National Political Party' has the privilege of allotting secure election symbols for the party to its candidates throughout India.
3. Candidates belonging to recognized National or State level political parties are required to have only one proposer at the time of filing their nomination papers. In addition, they also have the right to get two sets of electoral rolls free of cost at the time of revision of electoral rolls and one set of electoral rolls is provided free of cost to their candidates during the general election.

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4. For these, during the general elections, they are provided telecast facility on All India Radio and Doordarshan.

5. Travel expenses of star campaigners during general elections to recognized political parties are not added to the expenditure of that candidate or party.

### 'Havana Syndrome'

'Havana syndrome' refers to mental health symptoms allegedly experienced by US intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.

Its symptoms include hearing few sounds, often without any extraneous noise, nausea, dizziness and headache, memory loss and problems maintaining physical balance.

As the name suggests, the disease has its roots in Havana (Cuba).

- For the first time in 2016, there were reports of American diplomats and other government employees falling ill in the Cuban capital Havana.

- According to patients, they heard strange noises in their hotel rooms or homes and experienced strange physical sensations. Apart from this, symptoms such as nausea, severe headache, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems and hearing loss were felt for these.

- Subsequently, this mysterious disease came to be known as "Havana Syndrome".

### International Blue Flag Certification

Recently, two other Indian beaches (Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry) have been awarded the globally recognized and coveted international eco-label 'Blue Flag' certification.

- The number of beaches with 'Blue Flag' certification in India has gone up to 10.

- These certifications have been awarded in recognition of India's commitment to protect and preserve pristine coastal and marine ecosystems through holistic management of resources.

**Beaches that were awarded 'Blue Flag' certification last year have been included in this list again. This is the beach:**

1. Shivrajpur-Gujarat,
2. Ghoghla-Diu,
3. Kasarkode-Karnataka
4. Padubidri-Karnataka,
5. Kappad-Kerala,
6. Rushikonda-Andhra Pradesh,
7. Golden-Odisha and
8. Radhanagar-Andaman & Nicobar

### What is 'Blue Flag Certification'?

The 'Blue Flag Certification' is a globally

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recognized 'eco-label' awarded by the "Foundation for Environmental Education in Denmark" based on 33 stringent criteria.

- The Blue Flag program for beaches and marinas is being implemented by the Foundation for Environmental Education– FEE, an international, non-governmental, non-profit organization.
- This program was started in the year 1985 in France and implemented in Europe from the year 1987.
- Since 2001, South Africa has participated in this program, making it the first country other than Europe to participate.
- Clear and clean beaches, an indicator of the good health of the coastal environment, 'Blue Flag certification' is a 'global recognition' for India's conservation and sustainable development efforts.
- The "Blue Flag" waving on the beach indicates 100% compliance with 33 stringent norms and good health of the beach.

### **Meaning of 'Blue Flag' beach:**

The 'Blue Flag' beach, an eco-tourism model, marks the beaches that promote sustainable development of the region along with providing clean water, facilities, safe and healthy environment for tourists to bathe.

### **Coastal Environment and Elegance Management Services (BEAMS) Program**

### **(Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services (BEAMS) program)**

#### **reference:**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a highly acclaimed and flagship program 'Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services (BEAMS)' program in order to 'sustainable development' of the coastal regions of India.

#### **About BEAMS Program:**

It is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management- ICZM' approach for the sustainable development of coastal regions of India.

Its main objective is to conserve pristine coastal and marine ecosystems through holistic management of resources.

#### **Program Objectives:**

reducing pollution in the coastal sea,  
Promoting sustainable development of coastal goods,  
protect coastal ecosystems and natural resources and

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Strictly directing local authorities and stakeholders to maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and safety for beach-goers in accordance with the coastal environment and regulations.

### **What is Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project?**

ICZM aims to improve the livelihoods of coastal communities and conserve the coastal ecosystem.

It is a World Bank aided project.

In the context of its project, the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, will provide scientific and technical information.

The concept of ICZM originated in 1992 during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

International Maritime Organization urged to act on black carbon emissions

#### **reference:**

With the summer ice in the Arctic reaching its 12th lowest extent, the 77th 'Marine Environment' event to be organized in November by the 'Clean Arctic Alliance' of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ahead of the meeting of the 'Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)' ie MEPC 77, there has been a demand for an immediate reduction in 'black carbon' emissions from shipping/shipping.

### **About Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC):**

The 'Marine Environment Protection Committee' by the 'International Maritime Organization' (IMO) to ensure that a 'proactive stance' is adopted, to protect and protect the interests of the marine environment and ecosystem - MEPC) has been established.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)  
(Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY)

#### **reference:**

The world's largest health scheme 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (AB-PMJAY) has completed three years. This scheme was launched on 23rd September, 2018.

#### **Key Features of PM-JAY:**

1. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), fully funded by the government, is the world's largest health insurance / assurance scheme.
2. The scheme provides funds up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year to the beneficiaries for secondary and tertiary health treatment in public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
3. Coverage: More than 74 crore poor and deprived families (or about 50 crore

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beneficiaries) can get benefits under this scheme.

4. In this scheme cashless health care services are made available to the beneficiary at the service point.

5. National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency for the implementation and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme across the country.

6. The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme with some central sector components.

### **Eligibility under the scheme:**

1. There is no limit on the size, age or gender of the family under this scheme.

2. Under this scheme, various pre-existing medical conditions and serious diseases are covered from day one.

3. Under this scheme, clinical treatment, health treatment and medicines are available free of cost for 3 days before and 15 days after hospitalization.

4. It is a portable scheme i.e. beneficiaries can avail it in any public or private empaneled hospital across the country.

5. The plan covers about 1,393 procedures and packages such as Medicines, Supplies, Diagnostic Services, Doctors Fees, Room Fees, O-T and I-C-U Fees etc. which are available free of cost.

6. Private hospitals are reimbursed for health services at par with public hospitals.

### **According to the latest Economic Survey:**

- In the states where the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) program was implemented, there have been significant improvements in health outcomes.

- States that have implemented PM-JAY have greater coverage of health insurance, lower infant and child mortality rates, improved access to family planning services, and greater awareness of HIV/AIDS, compared to non-plan states. etc. have been experienced.

- The proportion of households with health insurance increased by 54% in the states that have implemented PM-JAY, while the states remaining out of the scheme have registered a decline of 10%.

### **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**

#### **What is 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission'?**

The 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission' was launched by the government in the year 2014 under the National Program for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD) for the conservation and development of indigenous breeds of milch animals.

#### **Major objectives of the mission:**

1. Development and conservation of

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indigenous breeds of milch animals.

2. Breed Improvement Program for Indigenous Animals. With this, genetic improvement in animals and increase in the number of animals will be possible.

3. Efforts to increase milk production and productivity.

4. Upgradation of other breeds through Sahiwal, Rathi, Deuni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and other elite indigenous breeds.

5. Distribution of bulls with high genetic merit for natural service.

### **Implementation of the plan:**

1. Rashtriya Gokul Mission is implemented through institutions like State Livestock Development Boards.

2. The State Gauseva Commission has been ordered to sponsor the proposal of 'Livestock Development Board' under the 'State Implementing Agency-SIA' and monitor these sponsored proposals.

3. Agencies that play a vital role in the indigenous animal department including best germplasm, such as CCBF, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural or Animal Husbandry Universities, colleges, NGOs, cooperatives and gaushalas are the participating agencies.

### **What is Gokul Gram?**

Gokul Gram Indigenous Animal Center and

ACT are working as a center for the development of indigenous breeds.

- Funds for this scheme are given for the establishment of Integrated Indigenous Animal Centre, Gokul Gram.

- Gokul Grams are established in the metropolitan areas near the native breeding areas and cattle for urban housing.

### **Role and Responsibilities of Gokul Gram:**

1. A reliable source for supplying high genetic breeding stock to the farmers in the breeding area of cows. Gokul Gram gives modern facilities in training center for farmers.

2. In these Gokul villages with a capacity of 1000 animals, the ratio of milk producing and non-productive animals is 60:40.

3. Gokul Grams are made for domestic production of fodder to meet the nutritional needs of the animals.

4. Gokul Gram is actually developed on the lines of an economic institution, in which economic resources are being generated through the sale of the following items: Milk Organic Manure Earthworm Manure Urine Distillate Generation of Bio-Gas Power for Domestic Consumption Sale of animal products etc.

5. The focus will be on genetic upgradation

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of urban cattle in metropolitan Gokul village.

### **Human activities threaten the Sundarbans**

#### **reference:**

According to the latest findings, the Indian Sundarbans are witnessing a continuous loss of biodiversity in the areas bordering the populated areas.

#### **Issues and Challenges:**

1. Due to coastal development or indiscriminate destruction for short-term gains, small pieces of mangroves are slowly and silently disappearing.
2. These areas are seen as rich habitat of many rare and endangered flora and fauna.
3. Due to the continued destruction of coastal mangrove ecosystems, fragmented and vulnerable mangrove habitats for rare species remain, hindering their transmission and spread.
4. This irreversible loss of biodiversity is often neglected, which can never be compensated by the principle of 'cut the established and plant the new'.

#### **Need:**

Sundarbans, shrimp farming are getting affected due to polluted discharge from the water bodies. Therefore, instead of popularizing prawn farming, if indigenous

fishing activities are more encouraged, the threatened coastal biodiversity can be preserved as well as provide livelihood options to coastal residents. Huh.

#### **About Indian Sundarbans:**

1. The Sundarbans comprise a network of hundreds of islands and rivers, tributaries in the Ganges and Brahmaputra deltas at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal, and extend into India and Bangladesh.
2. The Indian Sundarbans, located on the south-western part of the delta, accounts for more than 60 percent of the total mangrove forest area of the country.
3. The Sundarbans is the 27th Ramsar site in India and is the largest protected wetland in the country with an area of 4,23,000 hectares.
4. The Indian Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.
5. It is also the natural habitat of many other wild animals like wild fowl, giant lizard, spotted deer, wild boar, crocodile etc. Siberian ducks come here during the nomadic season. The Sundarbans are also home to endangered species such as the Batagur Baska, King Crab and Olive Riddle Turtle.

#### **PM Cares(PM-CARES)**



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reference:

Recently, the Central Government has informed the Delhi High Court, that the PM CARES Fund "is not a fund of the Government of India and its amount is not included in the 'Consolidated Fund of India'".

### **background:**

This affidavit was given by the Central Government in response to a petition filed before the High Court. In the said petition, there was a demand to declare the PM CARES Fund as a 'public authority' under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

### **Reply given by the government:**

Notwithstanding that, a 'trust' is deemed to be a "state" or other 'authority' within the interpretation of article 12 of the Constitution of India, and section 2[h] of the Right to Information Act, in general Subject to the provisions contained in section 8 and clauses [e] and [j] but under the 'Right to Information Act', disclosure of information to any third party is not permitted.

And, to ensure transparency, an audit report is released on the official website of the trust, with details of the utilization of funds received by the trust.

### **About PM-CARES:**

Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund) set up to accept donations and provide relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other similar emergencies was made to provide.

### **About PM Cares Fund:**

- PM CARES Fund was established on 27 March 2020 as a charitable trust under the 'Registration Act, 1908'.
- It can avail donations from foreign contributions and donations made to this fund are 100% tax-free.
- PM-CARES is separate from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

### **Who manages the fund?**

The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and the Defense Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister are the ex-officio trustees of the Government of India Fund.

### **Dark energy**

reference:

Recently, an international team of researchers has detected direct 'dark energy' for the first time.

Researchers observed some unexpected results during the XENON1T experiment and expressed the possibility of 'dark energy' as the reason.

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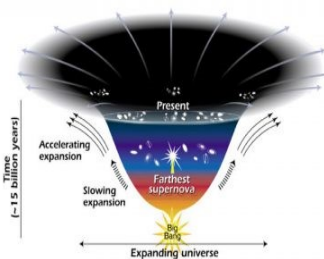
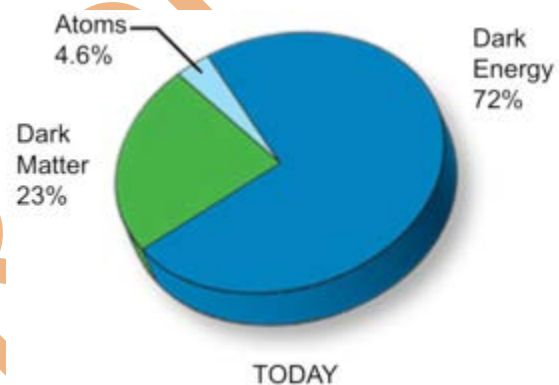
### What is 'dark energy'?

So far more is unknown than what is known. We know how much dark energy exists in space because we know how it affects the expansion of the universe. Also, 'dark energy' is a complete mystery. But this is a very important mystery, because about 68% of the universe is made up of 'dark energy'.

- 'Dark energy' is a hypothetical form of energy, which represents a negative, repulsive pressure acting opposite to gravity.
- It is accelerating, rather than slowing, the rate of expansion of our universe over time, which is the exact opposite of what might be expected from the universe that arose from the Big Bang.

Everything we see – planets, moons, giant galaxies – makes up less than 5% of the universe. In the entire universe, about 27% is dark matter and 68% is dark energy.

- 'Dark matter' attracts and holds galaxies together, and 'dark energy' causes the expansion of our universe.
- The existence of dark matter was indicated in the 1920s, while 'dark energy' was not discovered until the year 1998.



This diagram reveals changes in the rate of expansion since the universe's birth 15 billion years ago. The more shallow the curve, the faster the rate of expansion. The curve changes noticeably about 7.5 billion years ago, when objects in the universe began flying apart at a faster rate. Astronomers theorize that the faster expansion rate is due to a mysterious, dark force that is pushing galaxies apart.

### How is 'dark energy' different from dark matter?

### About XENON1T Experiment:

It is the world's most sensitive 'dark matter' experiment, and is being conducted deep underground at INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.

In this experiment, dual phase (liquid/gas) Xenon technology has been used.

### Theory of General Relativity:

In the main theories of physics, 'dark energy' is considered to be a characteristic property of space. Albert Einstein was the first to understand that space is not just empty space. He also said that space may

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continue to expand. Einstein included the 'cosmological constant' in his 'Theory of General Relativity', seeing that other scientists thought the universe was stationary.

- Einstein called his 'constant' his "biggest mistake" after getting information about the expansion of the universe from the Hubble telescope.
- However, this mistake of Einstein may be best suited for understanding 'dark energy'. Conjecturing that 'space' may also have its own energy, Einstein's 'constant' indicates that as space continues to build up, more energy will be added to the universe, and it will continue to expand.

### **'Right to Government aid' and Fundamental Rights**

#### **reference:**

According to the Supreme Court, granting government aid to an institution is a matter of policy, and the 'right to receive aid from the government' is not a fundamental right.

#### **Related case:**

The Supreme Court gave this decision during the hearing of an appeal challenging a decision of the Allahabad High Court in the year 2018 by the Uttar Pradesh government. The 'Allahabad High Court' in its judgment had declared a regulation

made under the 'Intermediate Education Act', 1921, as unconstitutional. The top court has set aside this decision of the High Court.

### **Important observations made by the Court:**

1. There are also some conditions with the grant-in-aid, which the grantee institution is bound to follow. If an institution does not want to accept these conditions, it can reject the grant but cannot say that the grant should be given on its terms.
2. The decision to provide assistance is a policy decision. While making such decisions, the government considers not only the interest of the institutions but its ability to be utilized.
3. As far as 'aided institutions' are concerned, there cannot be any distinction between minority and non-minority. Article 30 of the Constitution of India lays down restrictions to be just and reasonable with respect to grants.

### **Constitutional Provisions with respect to Minority Educational Institutions:**

Article 30(1) recognizes linguistic and religious minorities, but does not recognize minorities based on race, ethnicity.

- It recognizes the right of religious and linguistic minorities to establish and

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administer educational institutions, in fact Article 30(1) recognizes the role of educational institutions in the protection of a specific culture.

- Educational institutions can also be established and administered by the majority community but will not have special rights under Article 30(1)(a).

### **Special rights enjoyed by religious minority institutions:**

1. Under Article 30(1)(a), Minority Educational Institutions (MEIs) enjoy 'right to education' as a fundamental right. If, for any reason, the assets of a minority educational institution are acquired by the state, appropriate compensation should be provided for setting up the institution elsewhere.

2. Under Article 15(5), the provisions relating to reservation in Minority Educational Institutions (MEIs) do not apply.

3. Under the 'Right to Education Act', 'minority educational institutions' are not required to admit children in the age group of 6-14 years under the 25% enrollment reserved for the economically backward section of the society.

4. As per the Supreme Court's decision in 'St. Stephen's v. 'University of Delhi', 1992,

50% of seats may be reserved for minorities in 'minority educational institutions'.

5. As per the judgment of the Supreme Court in the 2002 case 'TMA Pai et al. v. State of Karnataka and others', 'Minority Educational Institutions' may have a separate admission process based on fairness, transparency and merit. These institutions may also set their own 'fee structure' separately but this should not include capitation fee.

### **Government debt (Government Borrowing)**

reference:

The government will borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current financial year to meet the 'revenue gap' to revive the pandemic-hit economy.

Rs 7.02 lakh crore has been raised by the government through issuance of 'bonds' during the first half.

### **background:**

The government raises money from the market to meet its fiscal deficit through 'dated securities' and 'treasury bills'.

The budget had projected the fiscal deficit at 8 per cent for the current fiscal, which is lower than the 9.5 per cent of GDP projected for FY21.

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### **What is 'Government Borrowing'?**

This borrowing is a loan taken by the government, which comes under capital receipts in the budget document.

Generally, the government borrows from the market by issuing government securities and treasury bills.

### **How does increased government borrowing affect the government's finances?**

The heavy burden of the government's fiscal deficit is due to the interest payable on its past debt.

If the government borrows more than the estimated amount, its interest cost will also be high, which ultimately affects the fiscal deficit and damages the government's finances.

within an acceptable range.

### **important climate summit**

Large borrowing programs lead to an increase in public debt and show a high debt-to-GDP ratio, especially at a time when GDP growth is under control.

### **What is an 'off-budget loan'?**

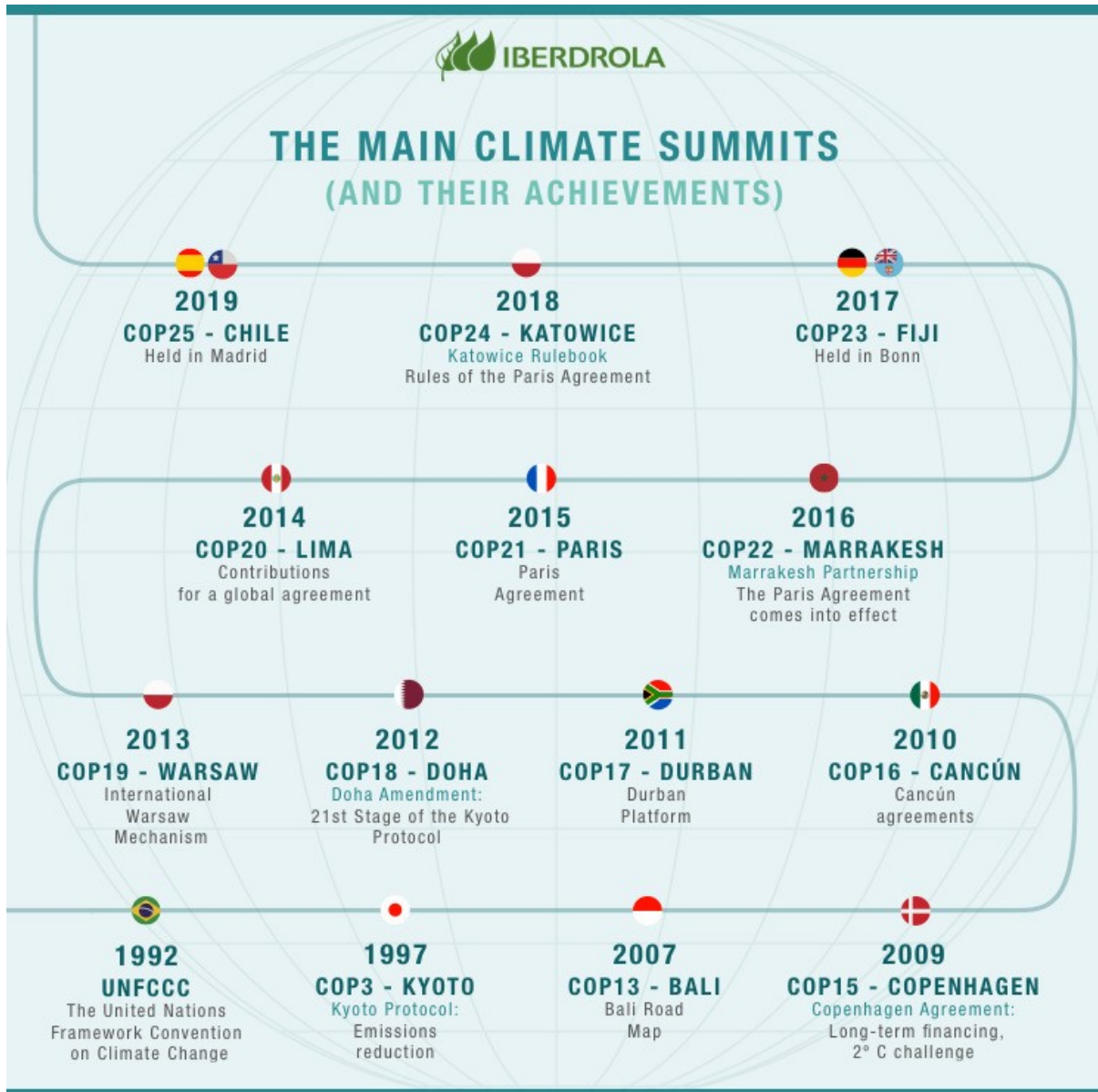
'Off-budget borrowing' are loans taken by another public institution on the instructions of the central government. These types of loans are not taken directly by the central government.

These types of loans are used to meet the expenditure requirements of the government.

Since the liability of these loans is not formally on the Centre, they are not included in the national fiscal deficit.

This helps in keeping the country's fiscal deficit

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### “Production Linked Incentive (PLI)” Scheme for Textile Industry reference:

Recently, the 'Production Linked Incentive

Scheme (PLI Scheme)' has been launched by the Central Government for the textile industry with a budgetary outlay of Rs 10,683 crore.

This PLI scheme is part of the 'PLI Schemes' with a total budgetary outlay of 1.97 lakh

crore announced earlier for 13 sectors in the Union Budget 2021-22.

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### Focus Area:

The objective of the 'Production-Linked Incentive' Scheme (PLI scheme) for the Textile Industry is to promote the production of high value Man-Made Fiber (MMF) fabrics, apparels and technical textiles.

### Qualification:

Any person (including a firm/company) engaged in plant, machinery, equipment and construction works (excluding land and administrative building cost) for the production of products of specified segments (MMF Fabrics, Garment) and technical textile products who is willing to invest a minimum of Rs.300 crores in the scheme, he/she will be eligible to apply for participation in the first part of the scheme.

In the second part, any person (including a firm/company), who is willing to invest a minimum of Rs 100 crore, will be eligible to apply for participation in this part of the scheme.

### Incentives:

Under the PLI scheme, subsidy will be provided by the central government to the eligible manufacturers by giving incentives on incremental production.

Companies investing more than Rs 300 crore in plant, machinery, equipment and civil works will get an incentive of 15 percent of their turnover. This turnover should be Rs 600

crores in the third year of investing.

Companies investing between Rs 100 crore and Rs 300 crore will also be eligible to get duty refund and incentives (less than 15 per cent of their turnover).

The scheme is expected to fetch the government "fresh investment of over Rs 19,000 crore and cumulative business of over Rs 3 lakh crore".

### Importance:

The PLI scheme will give a significant boost to domestic manufacturing, and prepare the textile industry to make a major impact in the global markets in line with the spirit of 'Self-reliant India'. This scheme will also help in attracting more investment in this sector.

### Need:

Man-made and technical textiles account for two-thirds of the international trade in textiles. The scheme has been approved with an aim to enable India to contribute to the ecosystem of garments made from man-made fibers (MMFs) and textiles.



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CAREER PLUS