

**Eastern India's Premier Coaching  
Institute for Civil Services**



# **CURRENT AFFAIRS 'QUICK REVISION' PRELIMS BOOSTER**

Compilation of major prelims related news, concept, keywords, scheme, terminologies from daily newspaper The Hindu & The Indian Express.

**August 2021**

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 02.08.2021

**1.G-SAP:** Under the Government Security Acquisition Programme (G-SAP), the central bank will purchase government bonds of worth Rs 1 trillion (or one lakh crores of rupees). The programme will help to reduce the spread between repo rate and the ten-year government bond yield which in turn will help reduce borrowing cost for the centre and states.

**2.K-shaped recovery:** occurs when, following a recession, when different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes. This is in contrast to an even, uniform recovery across sectors, industries, or groups of people. This type of recovery is called K-shaped because the path of different parts of the economy when charted together may diverge, resembling the two arms of the Roman letter "K."

**3.IPPC:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change. Established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988. It aims to provide political leaders with periodic scientific assessments concerning climate change, its implications and risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation strategies. It does not carry out new research nor does it monitor climate-related data. It bases its assessment mainly on published and peer reviewed scientific technical literature.

**4.U-235:** Natural uranium consists of two different isotopes - nearly 99% U-238 and only around 0.7% of U-235. U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a chain reaction in a nuclear reactor. Enrichment process increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation (U-238 is separated from U-235).

**5.Theatre Command:** An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern. The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal — from the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy — with seamless efficacy for better planning and military response and also bring down cost. The only fully functional theatre command is the Andaman and Nicobar Command set up in 2001.

**6.Minsky Moment:** refers to the onset of a market collapse brought on by the reckless speculative activity that defines an unsustainable bullish period. In other words, it occurs when asset prices fall, causing widespread panic and debtors' inability to pay interest and principal after the end of the growth phase of a cycle in business activity.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 03.08.2021**

**1.e-RUPI:** e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment. It is a QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries. The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app, or internet banking access, at the service provider. It has been developed by the National Payments Corporation of India on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and National Health Authority.

**2. JAM:** The JAM is the abbreviation form of Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar and Mobile number. The government has launched this scheme to deliver direct benefit to India's poor to plug the leakages of Government subsidies. The scheme brought together financial inclusion, biometric identification (Aadhaar) and mobile telecommunications. JAM trinity was proposed in the Economic Survey of 2014-15.

**3.TReDS:** Trade Receivables e-Discounting System (TReDS) is the institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs from corporate and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), through multiple financiers. It has been set up under the regulatory framework set up by RBI under Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007.

**4.NBFCs:** A Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business but does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.

**5.Factoring:** is a transaction where an entity (like MSME) sells its receivables (dues from a corporate) to a third party (a 'factor' like a bank or NBFC) for immediate funds. Banks and NBFCs provide finance against these receivables, enabling availability of ready funds for the MSMEs.

**6.Ro Value:** pronounced as "R naught" is a mathematical term that indicates how contagious an infectious disease is. It's also referred to as the basic reproduction number. It provides information on the average number of people who will contract a contagious disease from one person having that disease.

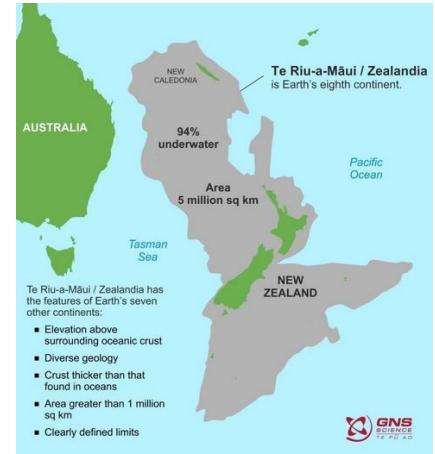
## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 04.08.2021

- 1. Rewilding:** a term linked with ecological restoration that has the ‘potential to increase biodiversity, and create self-sustainable environments. The process is pivoted on restoration of the local ecosystem to let it thrive independently. Rewilding is pivoted on 3Cs — core, corridor and carnivore. Rewilding has been practised for decades across the globe. Take, for instance, the reintroduction of wolves at Yellowstone over 21 years ago, which helped successfully reverse the degraded ecosystem at the US national park.
- 2. NCLT:** The National Company Law Tribunal or NCLT is a quasi-judicial body in India adjudicating issues concerning companies in the country. It was formed on June 1, 2016, as per the provisions of the Companies Act 2013 (Section 408) by the Indian government. NCLT was formed based on the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee that was related to insolvency and winding up of companies in India. It also serves as adjudicating authority for the insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- 3. Poverty line:** The official poverty line is the expenditure incurred to obtain the goods in a “poverty line basket” (PLB). Poverty can be measured in terms of the number of people living below this line (with the incidence of poverty expressed as the head count ratio).
- 4. Saubhagya:** Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – ‘Saubhagya’ was launched in September, 2017. Under Saubhagya free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas will be provided. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme. Solar Photovoltaic based standalone system for un-electrified households located in remote and inaccessible villages/habitations, where grid extension is not feasible or cost effective. The scheme aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country. The scheme lapsed on March 31, 2019, but its target of 100% electrification nationwide is yet to be achieved.
- 5. Ujjwala:** The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a government scheme launched in 2016. The scheme originally envisaged the distribution of 50 million LPG connections to women below the poverty line. Later, it aimed to provide LPG connections to eight crore women by March 2020. However, this target was achieved seven months prior, in September 2019. The scheme has been discontinued since 2019.
- 6. Payment system operators:** payment system operator means a legal entity that is legally responsible for operating a payment system. In India, payments systems are governed and regulated by the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and the regulations made thereunder.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 05.08.2021

**1. Zealandia:** Scientists confirmed the existence of an eighth continent, called Zealandia, under New Zealand and the surrounding ocean in 2017. Because 94% of Zealandia's 2 million square miles are underwater, mapping the continent is challenging. Zealandia's area is nearly 2 million square miles (5 million square kilometers) — about half the size of Australia. But only 6% of the continent is above sea level. That part underpins New Zealand's north and south islands and the island of New Caledonia. Latest map depicts coastlines, territorial limits, and the names of major undersea features.

The map is part of a global initiative to map the planet's entire ocean floor by 2030.



**2. Earth Overshoot Day:** The day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year. The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms. Earth Overshoot Day is computed by dividing the planet's biocapacity (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in a year. At our current rate, we're using around 1.7 Earths every single year. From now until the end of the year, we're operating on "ecological deficit spending". The report is compiled by annually by Global Footprint Network, an international non profit organization.

**3. Article 19(4):** Clause (4) of Article 19 empowers the State to impose reasonable restrictions on the right to form association and union under Article.19(1)(c) in the interest of "public order" or "morality" or "sovereignty and integrity" of India.

**4. MPLADS:** MPLAD is a Central Sector Scheme which was announced in December 1993. Each year, MPs receive Rs. 5 crore in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore each. Funds under MPLADS are non-lapsable. Lok Sabha MPs have to recommend the district authorities projects in their Lok Sabha constituencies, while Rajya Sabha MPs have to spend it in the state that has elected them to the House. Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the organising ministry of this scheme.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 06.08.2021

**1. EOS-03:** EOS-03 It is an earth observation satellite which will be placed in a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit. It would enable near real-time monitoring of natural disasters like floods and cyclones. It is capable of imaging the whole country four-five times daily. It would also enable monitoring of water bodies, crops, vegetation condition, forest cover changes.

**2. SHAR:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre (spaceport) operated by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Sriharikota Range was renamed in 2002 after ISRO's former chairman Satish Dhawan. Sriharikota separates Pulicat Lake from the Bay of Bengal.

**3. Retrospective tax:** Retrospective taxation allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed. Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes. While governments often use a retrospective amendment to taxation laws to “clarify” existing laws, it ends up hurting companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently.

**4. Muriate of potash:** Potassium chloride or Muriate of potash is red- white crystal containing: 50 to 52 percent K (60 to 63 percent  $K_2O$ ) and 45 to 47 percent  $Cl^-$ . It is completely soluble in water and therefore readily available to the crops. It is suitable for most of the crops except sugarcane, sugar beet, potato and tobacco.

**5. Nyingchi:** China's recently launched high-speed train connecting Tibet's provincial capital Lhasa with strategically located Nyingchi, a Tibetan town situated close to Arunachal Pradesh border, has been used for its first military transporting mission.



**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 07.08.2021**

- 1. Fiat Digital Currencies:** In order to understand the importance of a Digital Rupee, it is required to distinguish the digitalisation of fiat currency from digital currency. The digitisation of fiat currency stems from the advent of electronic payment and interbank IT systems, allowing commercial banks to more efficiently and independently generate the credit flows that expand the broad money supply. By contrast, digital currency, enabled by blockchain technology, affects the base currency allowing the central bank to bypass commercial banks and regain control of currency creation and supply end-to-end.
- 2. QUAD:** Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- 3. UNSC:** the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the five principal organs of the United Nations, charged with the maintenance of international peace and security as well as accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to UN Charter. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
- 4. G4:** The Group of 4 (G4), consisting of India, Brazil, Japan and Germany, participated in a virtual meeting. G4 is a group of countries that are seeking permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- 5. Tax Terrorism:** essentially means undue exercise of power by tax authorities to levy taxes using legal or extra-legal means. The Vodafone case is a classic example, when despite the Supreme Court order ruling in favour of the company, tax laws were amended, retrospectively.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 09.08.2021

**1.ISDS:** Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism permits companies to drag governments to international arbitration without exhausting the local remedies. It also allows them to claim huge amounts as compensation citing losses they suffered due to reasons, including policy changes. ISDS promotes investor confidence and can protect against sovereign or political risk. They are contained as part of Investment Treaties or Free Trade Agreements.

**2.BITs:** A Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) is an agreement establishing the terms and conditions for private investment by nationals and companies of one state in another state to protect investments made by investors of both countries. Most BITs grant investments made by an investor of one Contracting State in the territory of the other a number of guarantees, which typically include fair and equitable treatment, protection from expropriation, free transfer of means and full protection and security.

**3.Nationally determined contributions:** An Intended Nationally Determined Contribution is a public pledge from a country on how it plans to play its part in post-2020 collective action on climate change. These contributions are to be achieved before 2030. In the Paris Agreement, India committed to achieve the following three targets:

- India's greenhouse gas emission intensity of its GDP will be reduced by 33-35 % below 2005 levels by 2030.
- 40 % of India's power capacity would be based on non-fossil fuel sources.
- India will create an additional 'carbon sink' of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of Co2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

**4.Labour force participation rate:** LFPR is defined as the ratio of the total labour force divided by the total working-age population expressed as percentage. The working age population refers to people aged between 15 to 59.

**5.CRISPR Tech:** Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) is a gene editing technology which replicates natural defence mechanism in bacteria and archaea (the domain of single-celled microorganisms) to fight virus attacks, using a special protein called Cas9. Also known as, CRISPR-Cas9 technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands that contain genetic information. The specific location of the genetic codes that need to be changed, or edited, is identified on the DNA strand, and then, using the Cas9 protein, which acts like a pair of scissors, that location is cut off from the strand.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 10.08.2021

**1. IPCC:** Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is an intergovernmental body of United Nations (UN). It provides objective scientific information in order to understand human-induced climate change, its natural, political & economic impacts and possible response options. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established IPCC in 1988. It was endorsed by United Nations General Assembly later. It does not conduct its own research but assesses scientific papers published each year by research community.

**2. CoP26 Conference:** 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC which is scheduled to take place from 1st-12th November 2021, in Glasgow, UK. COP is a supreme-decision making body of the United Nations Climate Change Convention. One of the key tasks of COP is to review the emission inventories and national communications that are submitted by the parties. The COP meets every year unless the parties involved in the convention decides otherwise.

**3. One Nation One Ration Card:** ONORC allows a beneficiary to access his food entitlements from anywhere in India irrespective of the place where the ration card is registered. The aim of the scheme is to ensure hassle-free delivery of subsidized food grains to all migratory beneficiaries anywhere in the country through nation-wide portability under National Food Security Act. National portability will work using :

- a. Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal – It will provide the technological platform for the ration cards portability.
- b. Annavitran portal – It will host the data of the food grains distribution through ePoS devices within a state. This will help a beneficiary to access subsidized food grains within a state (inter-district).

**4. Wholesale Price Index:** Wholesale Price Index represents the price of a basket of wholesale goods and not services. Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. WPI focuses on the price of goods that are traded between corporations. It does not concentrate on goods purchased by the consumers. The base year of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in 2017.

**5. AMOC:** Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current which is sometimes referred to as the “Atlantic conveyor belt” — is one of the Earth’s largest water circulation systems where ocean currents move warm, salty water from the tropics to regions further north, such as western Europe and sends colder water south. It ensures the oceans are continually mixed, and heat and energy are distributed around Earth. Labrador current, gulf stream, Antilles current are part of AMOC.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 11.08.2021

**1. UNCLOS:** The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an international agreement adopted in 1982 that establishes guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. It defines the rights and responsibilities of nations towards the use of the world's oceans. Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene : (1) the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, (2) the International Seabed Authority,(3) the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

**2.SAGAR Vision:** Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is an increasing recognition of the increasing importance of maritime security, maritime commons and cooperation. It is India's policy or doctrine of maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean region to expand strategic partnerships with other IOR littorals in Asia and Africa. The key relevance of SAGAR emerges when seen in conjunction with India's other policies impacting the maritime domain like Act East Policy, Project Sagarmala, Project Mausam, India as 'net security provider', focus on Blue Economy etc.

**3.127th CAA:** The Constitutional 127th Amendment Bill will amend Articles 342 A — clauses 1 and 2 — and will introduce clause 342 A (3) specifically authorizing states to maintain their State List. There will be a consequential amendment in Articles 366(26C) and 338B (9). States will then be able to directly notify OBC and SEBCs without having to refer to the NCBC.

**4.Tribunals:** A Tribunal is a quasi-judicial institution having an authority to judge, adjudicate on, or to determine claims or disputes. They are created by laws of Parliament. They are not bound by rules of procedure and evidence but bound by the principles of nature of Justice. Example – National Green Tribunal.

**5.Kerch strait:** is a strait in Eastern Europe. It connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, separating the Kerch Peninsula of Crimea in the west from the Taman Peninsula of Russia's Krasnodar Krai in the east.



## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 12.08.2021

**1. Indian Medical Association:** IMA is a national voluntary organisation of physicians in India, which looks or cares after the interest of doctors or the wellbeing of the community at large. It was established in 1928 as the All-India Medical Association, and was renamed the "Indian Medical Association" in 1930. It is a society registered under The Societies Act of India.

**2. Infrastructure Investment Trust:** It is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return. InvITs can be treated as the modified version of Real Estate Investment Trusts designed to suit the specific circumstances of the infrastructure sector. They are similar to REIT but invest in infrastructure projects such as roads or highways which take some time to generate steady cash flows. InvITs enable developers of infrastructure assets to monetise their assets by pooling multiple assets under a single entity (trust structure). In India, InvITs are governed by SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2016. For investors such as banks, financial institutions, pension funds, insurance companies, and even retail investors, InvITs provide a good low-risk investment opportunity.

**3. Socio-Economic and Caste Census:** SECC 2011 is the first-ever census that generated comprehensive data covering households in both rural and urban areas. It was the first paperless census in India, conducted on handheld electronic devices, in 640 districts. It was the first-ever caste-based census since 1931 census of India. Data was collected on manual scavenging and Transgender count in India. It differs from normal census in following way.

1. The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
2. Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas according to the SECC website, “all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to households.”

**4. Mandal Commission:** officially known as the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission (SEBC), was set up on 1st January 1979 by the Indian Government under the then Prime Minister Morarji Desai. The Commission was chaired by an MP, B P Mandal. The chief mandate of the Mandal Commission was to identify the socially or educationally backward classes of India and to consider reservations as a means to address caste inequality and discrimination. Commission's report recommended that members of Other Backward Classes(OBC) be granted reservations to 27% of jobs under the Central government and public sector undertakings.

**1. Asian elephants:** India is the natural home of the largest population of Asian elephants. It is also found in Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. It usually resides in shrublands, artificial/terrestrial forests and grasslands. It is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. It is also listed in Appendix I of the CITES and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**2. Direct counting method:** The direct elephant counting method is based on sightings of elephants. In the indirect method, surveyors follow a dung decay formula for arriving at population estimation which is being used by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka at present.

**3. Universal Basic Income:** The Economic Survey of India 2016-17 has advocated the concept of Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an alternative to the various social welfare schemes in an effort to reduce poverty. Idea behind the Universal Basic Income is that every person should have a right to a basic income to cover his needs, just by virtue of being a citizen. The purpose of the UBI is to prevent or reduce poverty and increase equality among citizens.

UBI has five components:

- Universality - It is universal in nature.
- Periodic - Payments at periodic regular intervals (not one-off grants)
- Payments to individuals
- Payments in cash (not food vouchers or service coupons).
- Unconditionality- There are no preconditions attached with the cash transferred to the beneficiary.

**4. Manual scavengers:** Manual scavenging refers to the practice of manually cleaning, carrying, disposing or handling in any manner, human excreta from dry latrines and sewers. In 1993, the Government of India enacted the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act prohibited the employment of manual scavengers. Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) released in 2015, states that there were around 18 million manual scavenging households in rural areas.

**5. Central Vigilance Commission:** is the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament. It was setup on recommendation of K. Santhanam Committee.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 14.08.2021**

- 1. Section 74 of Juvenile Justice Act:** Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, prohibits the disclosure of the identity of a child in any form of media.
- 2. Section 23 of the POSCO Act:** Section 23 of the POCSO Act, 2012, also states that no information or photo of a child should be published in any form of media which could reveal the identity of the child.
- 3. Circular economy:** A circular economy depends on reuse, sharing, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing and recycling of resources to create a closed-loop system, minimising the use of resources, generation of waste, pollution and carbon emissions. When a car is scrapped, apart from metals including iron and steel, many other parts may emerge that can be refurbished and ploughed back into use. Recycled steel from scrap, even seats and plastic parts, have value in the scrap economy. It is similar to the economic activity of scrapping of old ships, like in Alang shipbreaking yard in Gujarat. In a circular economy, products, materials, equipment and infrastructure are kept in use for longer, thus improving productivity.
- 4. Voluntary vehicle fleet modernization programme:** The policy aims to create an ecosystem to phase out unfit and polluting vehicles. It will reduce pollution, improve fuel efficiency, and increase the government's revenue collection from the sale of new vehicles.

**1. Food fortification:** According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), food fortification is defined as the practice of deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and to provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health. Wheat Flour, Rice, Milk and Edible Oil and salt are currently fortified in India.

**2. Mission Poshan 2.0:** The supplementary nutrition programme (under which the government gives hot cooked meals and take home ration at anganwadis) and the Poshan Abhiyaan(which includes influencing behavioural changes and growth monitoring through the use of technology) has been merged to launch Mission Poshan 2.0. The programme will be aimed at improving and strengthening nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcomes, prioritizing 112 aspirational districts, will develop practices that will nurture health, wellness & immunity of children and pregnant women thereby making a concerted effort towards eradicating malnutrition from its roots.

**3. World Energy Council:** is the UN-accredited global energy body, representing the entire energy spectrum. Composition: of more than 3,000 member organisations located in over 90 countries and drawn from governments, private and state corporations, academia, NGOs and energy-related stakeholders. Roles: Informs global, regional and national energy strategies by hosting high-level events, publishing authoritative studies, and working through its extensive member network to facilitate the world's energy policy dialogue.

**4. Ramsar sites:** When a country accedes to the Ramsar Convention (an international treaty for "the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands"), it must designate at least one wetland as a Wetland of International Importance. The inclusion of a "Ramsar Site" in the List embodies the government's commitment to take the steps necessary to ensure that its ecological character is maintained. It also brings international cooperation regarding the conservation of wetlands. A Ramsar site can both be human made or a natural wetland.

**5. Purchasing Power Parity:** It is the rate at which the currency of one country would have to be converted into that of another country to buy the same amount of goods and services in each country. The PPP exchange rates are constructed to ensure that the same quantity of goods and services are priced equivalently across countries. PPP exchange rates are used to convert the national poverty lines from some of the poorest countries in the world to determine the Global Poverty Line.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 17.08.2021

**1.UN Plastic Treaty:** whereby governments commit to a coordinated set of actions and policies, can help put the world on a path toward a circular economy for plastics. A global agreement setting out global goals and binding targets, together with national action plans and consistent measurement is needed to harmonize policy efforts, enhance investment planning, stimulate innovation and coordinate infrastructure development. Such a treaty is demanded by various international NGOs like WWF, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and Boston Consulting Group.

**2.Karez System:** also known as Qanat which is a water harnessing technology that originated in Iran/Persia. The karez technology basically taps into the ground water sources (or natural springs) and transports it through an underground tunnel to the settlement, ending in surface canal and/or pools in the village. They are energy efficient and green since they use the force of gravity. The Karez system was built in the 16th century by Ali Adil Shah-I. The first Karez system in India was built in the city of Bidar of Karnataka during the reign of Bahamani Sultan Ahmad Shah Wali (1422-1436).

**Taliban:** The Islamic force called Taliban were founded in southern Afghanistan in 1990s . Mullah Mohammad Omar was the founder of the group. He was a member of the Pashtun tribe who became a mujahideen commander. He helped in pushing Soviets out of the country in 1989. Later in 1994, Mullah Omar formed the group in Kandahar comprising of 50 followers. They captured Kandahar & seized Kabul in 1996 and imposed strict Islamic rules. These rules banned television & music, stopped girls from going to school and forced women to wear burqas.



## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 18.08.2021

- 1. Laksmi Bhandar:** or Laxmi's Treasure is a new scheme to ensure monthly Basic Income support to female heads of 1.6 crore households of West Bengal. In this scheme, govt. will provide monthly Rs. 500 to families of general category (Yearly Rs. 6,000) and Rs. 1,000 to families of SC/ST (Yearly Rs. 12,000). This Scheme has been launched by keeping in mind the state's monthly average consumption expenditure of a household which is Rs 5249. With the help of the financial support provided through this scheme, 10% to 20% of the monthly expenditure of a beneficiary will be covered.
- 2. Financial Inclusion Index:** The Reserve Bank of India introduced the financial inclusion index on August 2021 to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country. It has been conceptualised as a comprehensive index comprising the details of banking, insurance, investments, postal and pension sector in consultation with government and sectoral regulators. It captures information on different aspects of financial inclusion in a single value in the range of 0 and 100. 0 indicates complete financial exclusion while 100 indicates complete financial inclusion. The FI-Index comprises of three broad parameters (weights indicated in brackets) viz., Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%) with each of these consisting of various dimensions, which are computed based on a number of indicators. A unique feature of the Index is the Quality parameter which captures the quality aspect of financial inclusion as reflected by financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities and deficiencies in services. The FI-Index will be published annually in July every year.
- 3. Green fodder:** is actually any type of feed that is made from green crops like legume crops, cereal crops, grass crops or even tree based crops. They are fresh green vegetation for livestock, rich in minerals and protein, as opposed to the expensive dry feed that herders would have to buy. It thus helps in keeping the feed cost low. Generally, there are 3 types of green fodders available which are cereal crop based, tree based and legume crop based green fodder.
- 4. Ethnic groups distribution across Afghanistan.**



**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 19.08.2021**

- 1. Carbon neutrality:** means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks. In order to achieve net zero emissions, all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions will have to be counterbalanced by carbon sequestration.
- 2. Montreal Protocol:** The 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its succeeding amendments were subsequently negotiated to control the consumption and production of anthropogenic ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) and some hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- 3. Kigali amendment:** was made to Montreal Protocol in 2016 to reduce future global average warming in 2100 due to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from a baseline of 0.3–0.5°C to less than 0.1°C. It aims for the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by cutting their production and consumption. The goal is to achieve over 80% reduction in HFC consumption by 2047. It came into force from January 1, 2019.
- 4. Article 75(3):** states the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People.
- 5. Basic structure of Constitution:** The concept of 'basic structure' came into existence in the landmark judgment in *Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala* case (1973). The doctrine of the basic structure holds that there is a basic structure( collection of ideas ) to the Indian Constitution, and the Parliament of India cannot amend those basic features.
- 6. Haircut:** Haircut in the financial terms means a reduction in the value of an asset.

**1. Human Development Report:** Human Development Report is published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It has a collection of indices to measure human development that entails people and their opportunities and choices. Released in Dec 2020 – Theme is ‘Human Development and the Anthropocene’. It introduced new index **planetary pressures-adjusted Human Development Index**

India’s rank – 131/189 countries

HDI of India – 0.645 (medium human development category)

**2. SDG 4:** Sustainable Development Goal #4 out of 17 Goals to be met by 2030 : Quality Education, calls for ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**3. Zayed Talwar Naval Exercise:** is a bilateral naval exercise between Indian and UAE Navy. Aim: The exercise is designed to enhance interoperability and synergy between the two navies. As part of the exercise, the Indian Navy deployed warship INS Kochi and two Sea King MK 42B helicopters.

**4. Virtual Network Operators:** is an entity that does not own a telecom network infrastructure but provides telecom services by purchasing capacity from telecom carriers.

**5. India Cooling Action Plan:** is launched by Ozone Cell of Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). ICAP aims to provide sustainable cooling while keeping in mind, at the same time, the need to protect the ozone layer. It provides a 20-year perspective, with projections for cooling needs in 2037-38.

- 1. Smart Health card:** is an initiative taken by the Odisha government under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). With this card, people can avail quality healthcare services in as many as 200 hospital chains of the country including Odisha for the treatment up to ₹5 lakh per annum. Out of a total 4.3 crores population of the state, about 3.5 crores people from 96 lakh families will be benefited through this scheme.
- 2. Bonda Tribe:** Bondas are one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) found in Odisha. Bondas are members of a group of Austroasiatic tribes, they are believed to be part of the first wave of migration out of Africa about 60,000 years ago. They are the first forest settlers in India. They dwell in isolated hill regions of the Malkangiri district of southwestern Odisha, India, near the junction of the three states of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh.
- 3. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:** PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. PVTGs have some basic characteristics - pre-agricultural level of technology, Low level of literacy, Economic backwardness, declining or stagnant population. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.
- 4. Generalized System of Preference:** GSP is a collection of preferential schemes granted by industrialized nations to developing countries to reduce tariffs or duty-free entry of eligible product while importing from the latter. It is WTO-compliant system.
- 5. Antyodaya scheme:** Antyodaya Anna Yojana is the sponsored scheme of Government of India to provide highly subsidised food to poorest of the poor (below poverty line category). It provides 35 kilograms of rice and wheat at a highly subsidised cost of ₹3 per kilogram of rice and ₹2 per kilogram of wheat. Its ration card is color-coded in yellow.
- 6. Annapurna scheme:** Annapurna Scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens (65 years and above) who are not covered under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). The beneficiaries are given 10 Kg. of food grains per month free of cost.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 23.08.2021**

**1.Onam food kit:** Food and Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala, will distribute special food kits during Onam, to provide free food kit distribution to nearly 90 lakh families across Kerala. It started as a welfare measure to aid people when the state went into a lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2.Moplah Rebellion:** The name Mappilla (lit. son-in-law; anglicized form Moplah) is given to Malayali-speaking Muslims who reside along the entire length of the Malabar Coast of northern Kerala. By 1921, the Moplahs formed the largest and fastest growing community in Malabar. It had been an uprising of Muslim tenants against British rulers and local Hindu landlords. It has often been perceived as one of the first nationalist uprisings in southern India.

**3.Article 235:** states that the control over District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto, including the posting and promotion of, and the grant of leave to, persons belonging to the judicial service of a State and holding any post inferior to the post of District Judge shall be vested in the High Court.

**4.Jan Shikshan Sansthan:** (formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth) provide vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs by identifying skills that have a market in the region of their establishment. The objective of JSS is to uplift this rural population economically by imparting essential skills training, thereby enabling local trades to grow and creating new opportunities for the natives of the region.

**5.Hazaras:** The group is largely found in the mountainous region of Hazarajat in central Afghanistan. They are believed to be descendants of Genghis Khan and his army that overran the region during the 13th century. They have been a target of the Taliban because they are primarily Shia; Afghanistan is predominantly Sunni. Their distinctive features and the dialect they use, Hazaragi, also set them apart. The Hazaras account for 10-12% of Afghanistan's 38 million population.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 24.08.2021**

**1. National Monetization Pipeline:** roadmap prepared by Niti Aayog through which the government aims to raise Rs 6.0 lakh crore by leasing out state-owned infrastructure assets over the next four years. Keypoints of the programme :

- NMP will unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring to them the rights but not the ownership in projects.
- To enable ‘Infrastructure Creation through Monetisation’ wherein the public and private sector collaborate, each excelling in their core areas of competence, so as to deliver socio-economic growth.

**2. Brownfield Projects:** are projects where some work has already been made. Site is already partly developed with required infrastructure. From that point onwards new development will be started. Eg : expansion project of airports, technology upgrade of machinery.

**3. Greenfield Projects:** where project starts from scratch. The site is not developed and required infrastructure for the project is normally not present. Eg : building new airport, installing new machinery.

**4. Cooperative Banks:** is a financial entity which belongs to its members, who are at the same time the owners and the customers of their bank. They are registered under the States Cooperative Societies Act( if operating in one state ) and the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002( if operating in two or more states ) The Co-operative banks are also regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and governed by the:

- Banking Regulations Act 1949
- Banking Laws (Co-operative Societies) Act, 1955.

**5. Ordinance:** Article 123 of the Constitution grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament. These ordinances have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament but are in the nature of temporary laws. Similar provision applies to Governor under Article 213 of the Constitution.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 25.08.2021**

**1. National Infrastructure Pipeline:** NIP is a initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens. It would invest 111 lakh crore over the next five years (2020-2025) to build infrastructure projects and drive economic growth in energy, roads, railways and urban projects. Centre (39 percent) and state (40 percent) are expected to have an almost equal sharein implementing the projects, while the private sector has 21 percent share. It would propel India to become a \$ 5 trillion economy by 2025.

**2. Infrastructure investment trust:** InvITs are instruments that work like mutual funds. They are designed to pool small sums of money from a number of investors to invest in infrastructure projects that give cash flow over a period of time. Part of this cash flow would be distributed as dividend back to investors. The minimum investment amount in an InvIT Initial Public Offering (IPO) is Rs 10 lakh, therefore, InvITs are suitable for high networth individuals, institutional and non-institutional investors.

**3. Operate Maintain Transfer (OMT):** The OMT model is a Public-Private-Partnership model in which private entity is responsible to operate, maintain, collect taxes/fees from the project during the contracted period and transfer back the facility to the public sector. This model is mostly used in Highway maintenance and toll collection process.

**4. Toll Operate Transfer (TOT):** Under this model, public funded projects are put up for bidding, wherein the right of collection and appropriation of fee is assigned for a predetermined concession period (30 years) to concessionaires (developers or investors) against the upfront payment of a lump sum amount to NHAI. This is similar to OMT with slight variations in contractual terms and concession arrangements.

**5. Operations, Maintenance and Development (OMD):** Government bids out the right to deliver a specific service or gives part of the undertaking to the private sector for operations and maintenance of the assets and also the new developments to be made on the project. The cost of development is borne by the Governments. Such contracts are normally of a shorter duration than concession contracts. Such agreements are deployed airport infrastructure in India.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 26.08.2021**

- 1. Fair and Remunerative Price:** is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers, is fixed by Union government on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and in consultation with the State Governments.
- 2. Industry 4.0:** Commonly referred to as the fourth industrial revolution, it is a name given to the current trend of automation, interconnectivity and data exchange in manufacturing technologies to increase productivity. Industry 4.0 is a complex Cyber-Physical Systems which synergizes production with digital technologies, the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data & Analytics, Machine Learning and Cloud Computing.
- 3. e-SHRAM:** e-SHRAM portal is a portal through which the government aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others. The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12-digit unique number, which, going ahead, will help in including them in social security schemes.
- 4. Social Impact Assessment:** is a methodology to review the social effects of infrastructure projects and other development interventions. Social impact assessment includes the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, of planned interventions and any social change processes invoked by those interventions. According to the The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, any major project is required to conduct an SIA within six months of the project's start date.
- 5. Yellow Revolution:** The revolution launched in 1986- 1987 to increase the production of edible oil, especially mustard and sesame seeds to achieve self-reliance. Sam Pitroda is Known as the father of the Yellow Revolution in India. Yellow Revolution targets nine oilseeds that are groundnut, mustard, soybean, safflower, sesame, sunflower, niger, linseed, and castor.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 27.08.2021**

1. **Digital Sky Platform:** is a unique unmanned traffic management system which is expected to facilitate registration and licensing of drones and operators in addition to giving instant (online) clearances to operators for every flight. Interactive airspace map with Red Zone (flying not permitted), Yellow Zone (controlled airspace), and Green Zone (automatic permission) will be displayed on the digital sky platform.
2. **Diclofenac:** is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain and inflammatory diseases. The drug was commonly administered to cattle to treat inflammation. Its veterinary use was banned in 2008 by the Government of India as it was bio-accumulating in Vultures causing kidney failures, leading to death. Diclofenac is dangerously fatal for Vultures. Even 1% of it in carcass would kill the Vulture in a short time after it feeds such carcass.
3. **Botulism:** is a rare but serious illness caused by Botulinum – a toxin that attacks the body's nerves and causes difficulty breathing, muscle paralysis, and even death. This toxin is made by an anaerobic bacteria - *Clostridium botulinum*
4. **Sambhar Salt Lake:** Situated about 80 km southwest of Jaipur, in east-central Rajasthan. It is the largest inland salt lake in India. It represents the depression of the Aravalli Range. It is a wetland of 'international importance' under the Ramsar Convention, declared in 1990. It receives water from six rivers, namely Samaod, Khari, Mantha, Khandela, Medtha, and Roopangarh. It is known for the production of brine/salt and also houses one of the largest salt manufacturing units in the country.
5. **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme:** launched in 2016. It aims to mitigate the hardship of the insured farmers against the likelihood of financial loss on account of anticipated crop loss resulting from adverse weather conditions relating to rainfall, temperature, wind, humidity etc. WBCIS uses weather parameters as "proxy" for crop yields in compensating the cultivators for deemed crop losses.

- 1. FSDC:** The Financial Stability and Development Council is a non-statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance formed in 2010 by Raghuram Rajan committee (2008) recommendations. The objective of FSDC is to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development. It also intends to monitor macro-prudential supervision of the economy. It will assess the functioning of the large financial conglomerates. The Finance Minister is the Chairman of the FSDC.
- 2. SEBI:** Securities and Exchange Board of India is a statutory body established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. The basic functions of the SEBI is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote and regulate the securities market. SEBI is a quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body which can draft regulations, conduct inquiries, pass rulings and impose penalties.
- 3. IRDA:** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India or the IRDAI is the apex body responsible for regulating and developing the insurance industry in India. It is an autonomous body established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- 4. PFRDA:** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority is the pension regulator and works towards its promotion and development. The Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority Act, 2013 gives statutory backing to the body. It has executive, legislative and judicial powers similar to other financial sector regulators in India such as RBI, SEBI, IRDA. PFRDA is regulating National Pension System, subscribed by employees of Govt. of India, State Governments and by employees of private institutions/organizations & unorganized sectors
- 5. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development :** apex regulatory body for overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India. It provides financial support necessary to build rural infrastructure . It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance. It was established on the recommendations of Sivaraman Committee under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981. NABARD has partnered with various leading global organisations and institutions affiliated with the World Bank that have played a role in transforming agriculture.

## PRELIMS BOOSTER: 30.08.2021

**1. Section 54EC of Income Tax Act:** allows taxpayers to offset long-term capital gains tax from transactions in immovable properties through investments in bonds( known as Capital gain bonds or 54EC bonds ) issued by some government-backed infrastructure firms.

**2.Legal person:** Legal Person includes those things which are treated in the same way as human beings for legal purposes. Legal persons have rights and co-relative duties; they can sue and be sued, can possess and transfer property. Since they're voiceless, this is mostly done through guardians and representatives. For example - River Ganges and Yamuna as well as all water bodies are considered as "legal person" in India

**3.Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement:** this agreement will facilitate reciprocal usage of logistics facilities by the militaries of India and Russia nations during visits to each other's ports, bases and military installations. India has Logistics support agreeemnt with US( called LEMOA ), Singapore, France and South Korea

**4.Malacca Strait:** waterway connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean). It runs between the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the west and peninsular Malaysia and extreme southern Thailand to the east.



**5. Nine Dash Line:** It is an U-shaped dashed line on South China sea that refers to the ill- defined demarcation line used by the China and the Taiwan, for their claims on the major part of the South China Sea.

**PRELIMS BOOSTER: 31.08.2021**

- 1. Black hole:** is an object in space that is so dense and has such strong gravity that no matter or light can escape its pull. Because no light can escape, it is black and invisible. There's a boundary at the edge of a black hole called the event horizon, which is the point of no return — any light or matter that crosses that boundary is sucked into the black hole. It would need to travel faster than the speed of light to escape, which is impossible. Anything that crosses the event horizon is destined to fall to the very centre of the black hole and be squished into a single point with infinite density, called the singularity.
- 2. UJALA:** also known as Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All scheme aims to promote the efficient usage of energy for all i.e., its consumption, savings and lighting. DISCOMS and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a PSU is implementing the programme. EESL distributes LED bulbs to households at 40 % of market price. It aims to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.
- 3. Category 4 storm:** A Category 4 storm has wind speeds between 130-156 mph. It is categorization based on Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale that rates hurricanes based only on its maximum sustained wind speed on a scale of 1 to 5. Saffir–Simpson hurricane wind scale is used officially only to describe hurricanes that form in the Atlantic Ocean and northern Pacific Ocean east of the International Date Line.
- 4. Mo school:** means 'My school' in Odia. It is an initiative that aims to create a platform for people to connect, collaborate and contribute to revamping the government and government-aided schools in Odisha. It is initiative to bring alumni, their alma mater and the community around a Government-run or a Government-aided schools together to participate in overall development of school education
- 5. Tech transfer hub:** are training facilities where the technology is established at industrial scale and clinical development performed. Interested manufacturers from low- and middle-income countries can receive training and any necessary licenses to the technology. It facilitates to bring in production know-how, quality control and necessary licenses to a single entity to facilitate a broad and rapid technology transfer to multiple recipients.