



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER, 2024

Week-3

15-21 Sept., 2024

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

15th SEPTEMBER 2024

One Nation, One Election

- **Context:** The Union government under PM Modi will implement the 'One Nation One Election' in its current tenure.

Key Facts

- Simultaneous Elections (One Nation One Election) refer to the idea of holding Lok Sabha and State legislative assembly elections together, with the aim of reducing the frequency of elections and their associated costs.
- Simultaneous elections in India to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies were held in the years 1951-52, 1957, 1962 and 1967.
- Thereafter, the schedule could not be maintained and the elections to the Lok Sabha and the State legislative assembly have still not been realigned.
- The issue of simultaneous elections was highlighted by Prime Minister Modi in 2014, and a committee headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind also looked into the issue.

BHASKAR Initiative

- **Context:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is set to launch the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR).

Key Highlights

- This digital platform is a part of the Startup India program and aims to strengthen India's startup ecosystem by centralizing resources and enhancing collaboration among startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.
- To be recognized as a startup under the Startup India initiative, the entity must be a private limited company, LLP, or partnership firm that is less than 10 years old, with an annual turnover not exceeding 100 crore.

- **Centralized platform:** A one-stop hub for stakeholders to access resources, tools, and knowledge, helping entrepreneurs from ideation to execution.
- **Networking and collaboration:** The platform will facilitate seamless interaction and partnerships within the ecosystem.
- **Personalized IDs:** Each stakeholder will receive a unique BHASKAR ID, enhancing discoverability and tailored experiences.
- **Global recognition:** The initiative will boost India's reputation as a hub for innovation and encourage cross-border collaborations.

BRICS

- **Context:** Turkey has formally applied to join BRICS.

Key Highlights

- **BRICS:** The BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) leaders first met in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July 2006 during the G8 Outreach Summit.
 - The group was formalized as BRIC during the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in September 2006, held alongside the UN General Assembly in New York City.
 - The inaugural BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on June 16, 2009.
- **Reason for Turkey's Joining:** Frustrated by its stalled European Union (EU) accession process, Turkey sees BRICS as an opportunity to form stronger ties with emerging global powers like Russia, China, and India. This could help Turkey reduce its dependency on Western alliances and diversify its international partnerships.
 - By joining the group, Turkey hopes to access new markets, boost trade relations, and attract investments from BRICS members, which could help strengthen its economy.
- **Expansion to BRICS:** The group was renamed BRICS after South Africa joined as a full member in September 2010.
 - South Africa attended the 3rd BRICS Summit in Sanya, China, on April 14, 2011.

- In January 2024, five new countries—Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, and Ethiopia—were added to the bloc.
- **India's Strategic Goals:** India aims to use BRICS to enhance its global standing and promote a multipolar world order.
 - The expansion aligns with India's foreign policy objectives and its efforts to reform global governance.

16th SEPTEMBER 2024

Operation Sadbhav

- **Context:** India has launched Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) to Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Key Highlights

- Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam have been hit by severe flooding caused by Typhoon Yagi.
- Operation Sadbhav is part of India's broader effort to contribute to HADR within the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region, in line with its longstanding 'Act East Policy'.
- Typhoon Yagi has been termed the strongest tropical cyclone that has hit Asia in 2024.
 - It started as a tropical storm in the western Philippine Sea and turned into a Category 5 typhoon and made landfall in China's Hainan province with winds of 223 kmph.
 - It has displaced millions across South East Asia and caused widespread devastation.

CREATE Setup

- **Context:** The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has inaugurated the Centre for Rural Enterprise Acceleration through Technology (CREATE) setup at Leh.

Key Highlights

- CREATE will provide a Pashmina Wool Roving Facility, Training for development of production

facility for Essential Oil Extraction from Roses and Other Flowers and Training for development of production facility for Bio-processing of available fruits and other raw materials.

- It will enhance local productivity, product quality, economic potential and improve livelihoods for the local communities.

Saarthi App

- **Context:** The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) launched Saarthi, a new reference application aimed at helping businesses create customized multilingual buyer apps.

Key Highlights

- It is developed in collaboration with Bhashini which is an AI-powered language translation tool.
- The app initially supports Hindi, English, Marathi, Bangla and Tamil, with plans to scale up to all 22 languages provided by Bhashini.
- The multilingual features of Saarthi, including real-time translation, transliteration, and voice recognition allow businesses to expand market reach, enabling companies to tap into new regions and increase customer acquisition.

17th SEPTEMBER 2024

4th Global Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST)

- **Context:** The Prime Minister inaugurated the fourth Global Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) in Gujarat.

Key Facts

- Gujarat has pledged renewable energy capacity addition of 128.60 GW by 2030 — the highest among all the States.
- Andhra Pradesh has committed to adding 72.60 GW capacity, followed by Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh at 62.73 GW, 57.71 GW, and 47.63 GW, respectively.

Renewable Energy in India

- Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed. They are more sustainable and environmentally friendly because they produce little to no greenhouse gases or pollutants.
- India stands 4th globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity, 4th in Wind Power capacity & 5th in Solar Power capacity (as per REN21 Renewables 2024 Global Status Report).
- India has already achieved its target of 40% installed electric capacity from non-fossil fuels in 2021 itself.

India's Targets

- India has a vision is to achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2070, in addition to attaining the short-term targets which include:
 - Increasing renewables capacity to 500 GW by 2030,
 - Meeting 50% of energy requirements from renewables,
 - Reducing cumulative emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030, and
 - Reducing emissions intensity of India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels.

Subhadra Yojana

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Odisha government's flagship initiative, the Subhadra Scheme which will be the largest women-centric initiative in the state.

Key Highlights

- The scheme is named after Goddess Subhadra, the younger sibling of Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of Odisha.

- Under the scheme, 50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore poor women aged between 21 and 60.
- A total of ₹10,000 per annum will be paid in two installments of 5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8).
- Women who are receiving assistance of ₹1,500 or more per month, or ₹18,000 or more per year under any other government scheme, will be ineligible for inclusion under Subhadra.
- The money will be deposited directly into the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled single-holder bank account; A Subhadra Debit Card will also be issued to them.

Operation CHAKRA III

- **Context:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in its ongoing Operation CHAKRA-III has taken action to successfully dismantle a sophisticated cyber-enabled financial crime network

Key Facts

- This operation was executed with cooperation from other international law enforcement agencies including the FBI (USA) and INTERPOL.
- The network has been targeting victims in foreign countries since 2022, with their operations involving cryptocurrencies and bullion.

About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- CBI, functioning under the Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances, Government of India, is the premier investigating police agency in India.
- CBI derives power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- It was established by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in 1963.
- The Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption recommended the establishment of the CBI.

18th SEPTEMBER 2024

Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) Services

- **Context:** According to a report by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), many providers of Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services, represent a “relatively untapped” sector with “tremendous” revenue potential.

Key Highlights

- OIDAR services are those which are delivered over the internet or electronic network and whose supply is essentially impossible without Information Technology.
 - It includes a wide array of services viz cloud services, digital content, online gaming, online advertising etc.
 - When such services are provided by an offshore entity to a non-taxable recipient, the supplier becomes liable for obtaining registration and discharging GST on the same.
- The DGGI noted that since the OIDAR service providers are located abroad it becomes a challenge in GST enforcement and hence the sector remains relatively untapped.
- The DGGI suggested steps like registering with the KODEX platform to receive the data/information in respect of offshore suppliers, as well as coordination with the Reserve Bank of India to obtain relevant data pertaining to forex transactions.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet approved Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan for improving the socio-economic condition of tribal communities.

Key Highlights

- **The outlay of the scheme is Rs.79,156 crore (Central Share: Rs.56,333 crore and State Share: Rs. 22,823 crore).**
- It will cover around 63,000 villages benefitting more than 705 tribal communities as announced in the Budget Speech 2024-25.
 - India has Scheduled Tribe population of 10.45 crore as per 2011 census and there are more than 705 tribal communities.
- The Mission comprises 25 interventions which will be implemented by 17-line ministries.
- Each Ministry/Department would be responsible for implementation of scheme related to it through funds allocated to them under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in next 5 years to achieve following goals:
 - **Goal-1:** Pucca house for eligible Households with other entitlements and Improving Village infrastructure,
 - **Goal-2:** Promotion of Economic Empowerment by Skill Development Entrepreneurship promotion and enhanced livelihood(self-employment),
 - **Goal-3:** Universalization of Access to Good Education,
 - **Goal-4:** Healthy lives and Dignified Ageing.

19th SEPTEMBER 2024

Indus Water Treaty

- **Context:** India has sent a formal notice to Pakistan, seeking the “review and modification” of the Indus Water treaty (IWT).

Key Highlights

- The latest notice is issued under Article XII (3) of the IWT, signaling India’s intent to revoke and renegotiate the 64-year-old treaty.
 - **Article XII (3) states:** “The provisions of this Treaty may from time to time be modified by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two Governments”.

- The two notifications come amidst a prolonged controversy over the construction of two hydel power projects by India in Jammu & Kashmir — one on Kishanganga, a tributary of Jhelum, in Bandipora district, and the other (Ratle Hydroelectric Project) on Chenab in Kishtwar district.
 - Both are “run-of-the-river” projects, meaning they generate electricity (330 MW and 850 MW respectively) using the natural flow of the river, and without obstructing its course.
 - However, Pakistan has repeatedly alleged that both these projects violate the IWT.

About Indus Water Treaty

- The Indus Water Treaty was signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan after nine years of negotiations arranged by the World Bank.
- It governs the management and use of the Indus River system.
- The treaty allocates the waters of the three eastern rivers (Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej) to India and the three western rivers (Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum) to Pakistan.
 - The treaty gave India about 30% of the water carried out by the Indus Rivers System while Pakistan got 70% of the waters.
- The treaty established a commission to facilitate communication and cooperation between the two countries regarding water management.
- Provisions are included for addressing disputes, primarily through consultation and negotiation.
 - According to the treaty, there is a sequential, three-level mechanism where disputes are first decided at the level of the Indus Commissioners of the two countries, then escalated to the Neutral Expert who is appointed by the World Bank, and only then escalated to the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).
- India is allowed to develop hydroelectric projects on the western rivers, provided they do not affect Pakistan's water supply.

National Centre of Excellence for AVGC-XR

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet cleared the proposal of establishing the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in Mumbai.

Key Facts

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry will be partners with the Government for this project.
- Tentatively named the Indian Institute for Immersive Creators (IIIC), this hub is set to transform the AVGC sector and drive innovation in immersive technologies.
- The IIIC is designed to be a premier institution offering state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology.
 - The centre will provide specialised training in immersive technologies, including Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), Mixed Reality (MR), and 3D modelling and animation.
- The centre aims to generate around 5 lakh jobs.
 - By offering world-class infrastructure and specialised skills, the NCoE will build a strong talent pool and create significant opportunities for employment and innovation.

20th SEPTEMBER 2024

Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

- **Context:** The union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) by extending the scope of Gaganyaan program.

Key Highlights

- The first module of BAS will be launched in 2028 and by 2035 the fully operational indigenous space station will be created.
- The BAS will be placed in low earth orbit, at 400 km above the earth's surface.

- The revised Gaganyaan Programme to include the scope of development and precursor missions for BAS, and factoring one additional uncrewed mission and additional hardware requirement for the developments of ongoing Gaganyaan Programme. Now the human spaceflight program of technology development and demonstration is through eight missions to be completed by December 2028 by launching the first unit of BAS-1.
- The 52-tonne space station will serve as a research platform for Indian astronauts and scientists to conduct experiments in microgravity, astronomy and Earth observation, and will allow astronauts to stay in orbit for 15-20 days.

■ DO YOU KNOW: _____

Currently, there are only two operational space stations – the International Space Station (ISS), developed in cooperation by the United States, Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada; and China's Tiangong Space Station (TSS).

White Revolution 2.0

- **Context:** Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0'.

Key Highlights

- Government also launched an action plan on the formation and strengthening of two lakh new Multipurpose Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies, dairy and fishery cooperatives.
- The White Revolution 2.0 focuses on four key areas – empowering women farmers, enhancing local milk production, strengthening dairy infrastructure and boosting dairy exports.
- White Revolution 2.0 aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 percent over the next five years.
 - The dairy cooperatives will procure one thousand lakh litre of milk daily by the end of the fifth year

significantly enhancing the livelihoods of rural producers.

- The plan involves setting up and strengthening 100,000 new and existing district cooperative societies, multi-purpose district cooperative societies, and multi-purpose PACS, which will be linked to milk routes with necessary infrastructure.

About White Revolution

- The White Revolution in India, also known as Operation Flood, was a significant dairy development program implemented to enhance milk production and address the country's milk scarcity issues.
- It was launched in 1970 by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) under the leadership of Dr. Verghese Kurien, often referred to as the "Father of the White Revolution."

21st SEPTEMBER 2024

Fact Check Unit (FCU)

- **Context:** The Bombay High Court struck down the amended Information Technology Rules, 2023, which empowered the Centre to set up a fact check unit (FCU) to identify fake, false and misleading information about the government.

Amended Information Technology (IT) Rules

- The amendment to The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 notified in 2023 did two things:
 - they brought in a legal framework for the online gaming eco-system
 - and introduced a legal mechanism for the government to fact-check online content pertaining to "government business".
- The Rules made it obligatory on intermediaries like social media platforms "to not to publish, share or host fake, false or misleading information in respect of any business of the Central Government".

- The changes raised concern that the FCU will make the government the “sole arbiter of truth” in respect of any business related to itself.
- Subsequently, the rules were challenged before the Bombay High Court.

About Fact Check Unit

- It was established under the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and started its operations in 2019.
- It was constituted to flag “fake, false or misleading online content related to the government.
- The FCU would flag off the fake, false, and misleading facts about the business of the government to social media intermediaries.
- Once such a post is flagged off, the intermediary has the option of either taking down the post or putting a disclaimer on the same.
 - In taking the second option, the intermediary loses its safe harbour/immunity and stands liable for legal action.
- Recently, the government notified the Fact Check Unit under Information Technology Rules, 2021.

International Big Cat Alliance

- **Context:** After an approval from the Union Cabinet, India has formally joined the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), by signing and ratification of the Framework Agreement of IBCA.

About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The alliance was conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition of 96 big cat range countries and others to establish a common platform for conservation.
- **Objective:** Focus of the Alliance is to conserve seven big cats of the world which includes Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar and Cheetah.

- In India out of the seven big cats only five — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard and cheetah — are found.
- **Funding:** The government also approved a one-time budgetary support of 150 crore for a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- **Governance:** IBCA governance consists of an Assembly of Members, Standing Committee and a Secretariat with its Head Quarter in India.
- All UN member countries are eligible for becoming a member of IBCA.
 - So far 4 countries have become members of IBCA including India, Nicaragua, Eswatini and Somalia.

Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

- **Context:** India has achieved Tier 1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, with a score of 98.49 out of 100, marking it as a global leader in cybersecurity.

Key Highlights

- India's success is driven by robust cybercrime laws, sector-specific Computer Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), education initiatives, and international collaborations.
- India's global leadership is reinforced by international partnerships and agreements to enhance cybersecurity capacity and information sharing

About GCI 2024

- **GCI 2024 Assessment:** The GCI evaluated countries based on five pillars—legal, technical, organizational, capacity development, and cooperation—using a detailed questionnaire covering 83 questions and 20 indicators.
- It is published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).