

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2021



The screenshot displays the YouTube channel interface for 'Success Mantra Digital'. The channel's banner image shows a group of people in front of a backdrop that reads 'ACADEMIA - 2018'. The channel name and a 'SUBSCRIBED' button are prominently displayed. Below this, a grid of video thumbnails is visible, including titles like 'AILET 2021 Paper Analysis', 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis', and 'Why You Should Join The Legal Profession'. Each video entry includes a thumbnail, title, and view count.

Subscribe Our YouTube Channel
SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL
 And Ace Your Entrance!!



NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#UNION CABINET APPROVED KEN-BETWA INTER-LINKING PROJECT

Recently, the Cabinet has approved the funding and implementation of **Ken-Betwa inter-linking of rivers project**.



- The project envisages transferring water from the Ken river to the Betwa river, both tributaries of the **Yamuna**. The project will be completed in eight years.
- **About:** It is the first project under the **National Perspective Plan** for interlinking of rivers. The Ken-Betwa Link Canal will be 221 km long, including a 2-km long tunnel.

Ken and Betwa Rivers

- Ken and Betwa rivers **originate in MP** and are the **tributaries of Yamuna**.
- **Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda** district of UP and with **Betwa in Hamirpur** district of UP.
- Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
- Ken River passes through **Panna tiger reserve**.
- **Background:** The idea of linking Ken with Betwa got a major push in August 2005, when a tripartite memorandum of understanding for preparation of a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** was signed among the Centre and governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- In **2008, the Centre declared KBLP a National Project**. Later, it was included as part of the **Prime Minister's package** for development of drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
- In 2021, a memorandum of agreement was signed for implementation of this project among the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the two states.

Implementing Agency:

- A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called **Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)** will be set up to implement the project.
- The **National Interlinking of Rivers Authority (NIRA)** has the powers to set up SPV for individual link projects.
- **Phases of the Project:** The project has two phases, with mainly four components.
- **Phase-I** will involve one of the components — **Daudhan Dam complex** and its subsidiary units such as Low Level Tunnel, High Level Tunnel, Ken-Betwa Link Canal and power houses.
- **Phase-II** will involve three components — **Lower Orr Dam, Bina Complex Project and Kotha Barrage**.
- **Benefits:** The project lies in Bundelkhand, a drought-prone region, which spreads across **13 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh**.
- According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, the project will be of immense benefit to this **water-starved region**.
- Further, **it will pave the way for more interlinking of river projects** to ensure that scarcity of water does not become an inhibitor for development in the country.

- According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, the project is expected to provide **annual irrigation** of 10.62 lakh hectares, **supply drinking water** to about 62 lakh people, and generates 103 MW of **hydropower** and 27 MW of **solar power**.

Associated Challenges:

- **Submergence of Panna Tiger Reserve:** According to the National Water Development Agency, the reservoir of Daudhan dam will involve “a submergence of 9000 ha area, out of which 5803 ha comes under **Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR)**.”
- To mitigate this, three Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS), viz **Nauradehi, Rani Durgawati** of MP and **Ranipur WLS** of UP are planned to be **integrated with PTR**.
- **Several Clearances Required:** Various types of clearances are required, such as:
- **Techno-economic clearance:** To be given by the Central Water Commission;
- **Forest clearance and environmental clearance:** To be given Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- **Resettlement and rehabilitation plan of tribal population:** to be given by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

History of Interlinking of Rivers in India

- **Colonial Idea:** The idea was first mooted during the British Raj when **Sir Arthur Cotton**, a British general and irrigation engineer suggested **linking the Ganga and the Cauvery for navigational purposes**.
- **Projects undertaken by the British:** under which transfer of water from **Periyar basin to Vaigai basin** was envisaged, was commissioned in 1895.
- **Other projects** such as **Parambikulam Aliyar, Kurnool Cuddapah Canal, Telugu Ganga Project, and Ravi-Beas-Sutlej** too were undertaken.

National water Grid:

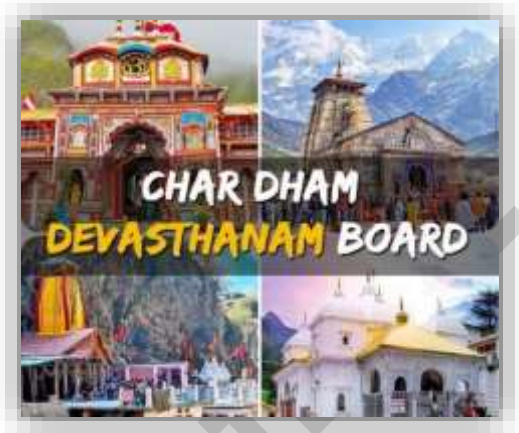
- In the **1970s**, the **idea of transferring surplus water from a river to a water-deficit area** was **mooted** by the then Union Irrigation Minister **Dr K L Rao**.
- He suggested construction of a National Water Grid for transferring water from water-rich areas to water-deficit areas.
- **Garland Canal:** Later, **Captain Dinshaw J Dastoor** proposed a **Garland Canal to redistribute the water from one area to another**. However, the government did not pursue these two ideas further.

National Perspective Plan:

- It was not until August 1980 that the **Ministry of Irrigation prepared a National Perspective Plan for water resources development** envisaging inter-basin water transfer.
- The NPP comprised two components: **Himalayan Rivers Development**, and **Peninsular Rivers Development**.
- Based on the NPP, the **National Water Development Agency (NWDA)** identified 30 river links– 16 under the peninsular component and 14 under Himalayan Component.
- The **Ken-Betwa Link Project is one of the 16 projects** under the peninsular component.

#CHAR DHAM DEVASTHANAM MANAGEMENT ACT

- The Uttarakhand Government recently withdrew the **Char Dham Devasthanam Management Act**.
- The act was withdrawn due to the protests from priests and other stakeholders of **Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the major shrines**.

**What is Char Dham Act?**

- The **Char Dham Shrine Management Act** was legislated by the Uttarakhand State Assembly in 2019.
- The act constituted a board called **Uttarakhand Char Dham Devasthanam Board**. The board brought the Char Dham of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and 49 other temples under its purview.
- The Chief Minister was the Chairman of the board and the Minister of Religious Affairs was the vice chairman. **Two MLAs of Yamunotri and Gangotri** were members of the board and a senior IAS officer was the Chief Executive Officer.
- The board was responsible for management of temples. It had powers to frame policies, sanction expenditure, budget formulation. Also, the board had powers to give directions for the safe custody of temple jewellery and properties.
- Before the act, the **temples were managed under the Shri Badrinath – Shri Kedarnath Act, 1939**. Under the act, Shri Badrinath – Shri Kedarnath Mandir Samiti was constituted.
- The Samiti was chaired by a person appointed by the Government. The committee was responsible for making decisions related to funds, donations and development works in and around the temples.

Why was Char Dham Act proposed?

- Most of the provisions of **Shri Badrinath – Shri Kedarnath Act, 1939** were not relevant to the present context. Thus, the Char Dham Bill was proposed. It aimed to rejuvenate the temples.
- According to the protestants, the Government wants to take control over the financial and policy decisions of the temple.
- In Gangotri and Yamunotri, the temples were earlier under the control of local trusts. **The Government had no say and no share in the donations made by the devotees.**

#CDS GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT PASSED AWAY IN TRAGIC CRASH

- **CDS General Bipin Rawat** and his wife Madhulika Rawat passed away in a tragic crash of the Indian Airforce Helicopter Mi-17V5 in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu on December 8, 2021.
- There were a total of 14 people on board the ill-fated military chopper among whom 13 have been confirmed dead. CDS General Bipin Rawat was scheduled to address the faculty and students of the **Defence Services Staff College, Wellington**.
- **General Bipin Rawat had taken charge as India's first-ever Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on January 1, 2020.** He served as the **principal military advisor** to the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- He had assumed the office of CDS after he retired as Army Chief on December 31, 2019. The Chief of Defence Staff is an important post that was created for the first time.
- **The Chief of Defence Staff**, a four-star General, is also the head of the new Department of Military Affairs, whose responsibility is to ensure unity in training, logistics and procurement of the three armed services. With the tragic demise of serving CDS General Bipin Rawat, the government will be forced to name the next Chief of Defence Staff in these most unfortunate circumstances.



Chief of Defence Staff Post -Objective

- The **Chief of Defence Staff post** was created to ensure jointness and synergy between the three defence services of India and optimum utilisation of the allocated budget.

Chief of Defence Staff post: Key Details

- **Term:** The tenure of the Chief of Defence Staff will be maximum up to the **age of 65 years**. The defence ministry amended the army, air force and navy rules to bring in the new clause that relaxes the age limit.
- As per the existing rules, the maximum term of the **Army Chief is three years or the retirement age of 62 years**, whichever is earlier. General Bipin Rawat, who is yet to reach 62 years of age, is retiring as he has completed his three years as Army Chief.

Role of Chief of Defence Staff

- The Chief of Defence Staff will be responsible for the administration of all three armed services including the **army, navy and the air force**. The main command of the services will be, however, with the respective Chief of the service.
- The CDS will be the **principal military advisor to the Union Defence Minister** but the chiefs of all three services will also continue to advise the minister on matters exclusively concerning their services.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff** will be senior to the three services' chiefs but he will not have the authority to exercise any military command, including over the three service chiefs. The key role of the CDS will be to ensure optimum utilisation of allocated budget, synergy in the procurement of weapons, training and

operation of the three services through joint planning.

- The CDS will form the **overall defence acquisition plan for the tri-services**.
- The **Chief of Defence Staff** will also serve as the head of the newly formed cyber and space agencies and the tri-service agency of Special Forces. The deployment of the Special Forces will, however, be decided by the ground commanders.
- The CDS will also head the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff, which comprises representatives from the three services. The Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff, who currently **heads the tri-services organization, will now be known as Deputy CDS and come under the authority of the CDS**
- All tri-services institutions will also come under the authority of the Chief of Defence Staff. The main role of the CDS will be to ensure coordination in joint operations. He will not have any operational role and military command.
- Further, the Chief of Defence Staff will also hold the post of **permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**.
- The CDS will also not be eligible to hold a government office after retiring from the post.

Background

- **Prime Minister Modi** had announced the creation of the new post of Chief of Defence Staff during his Independence Day speech on August 15, 2019.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, had later approved the **proposal for the creation of a new Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**.
- The **Department of Military Affairs** will fall under the Union Defence Ministry and the Chief of Defence Staff will function as its head.
- The department will have authority over the three services, the Headquarters of IDS, Territorial Army and all work related to the three services and their procurements except capital acquisitions.
- Comprising civilians and military officers, the department will mainly work to promote unity in the procurement, training and staffing for the three services.
- With the creation of the new department, the **existing Department of Defence will focus on large issues relating to the nation's defence**.

#MM NARAVANE TAKEN CHARGE AS CHAIRMAN OF CSC

- **Indian Army Chief Gen MM Naravane** has taken charge as the **Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee** comprising the three service chiefs.
- The post of the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee had fallen vacant after the death of the Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat in the **IAF helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu** on December 8, 2021.
- **Army Chief Gen MM Naravane** has been appointed as the **current Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** because of his seniority among the three service Chiefs.
- The **Chief of Indian Air Force V R Chaudhari** and the **Chief of Indian Navy Admiral R Hari Kumar** took over their respective positions on September 30 and November 30, 2021.



Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee: MM Naravane

- MM Naravane is the current Chief of the Army Staff and the 58th Chairman of the Chiefs Staff Committee.
- Naravane took over as the **Chief of Army Staff from Gen Bipin Rawat** after the latter completed his term and was appointed as India's first Chief of Defence Staff.
- Before his appointment as the Army Staff Chief, Naravane served as the 40th Vice Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army, General Officer Commanding in chief of Army Training Command, and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Command.
- In June 1980, **MM Naravane was commissioned into the 7th Battalion the Sikh Light Infantry.**

Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee:

- The **Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee** was the head of the Indian Armed Forces. The appointment of senior-most Chief of Staff was made to serve as a Chairman until he retired.
- After the **creation of Chief of Defence Staff**, CDS became the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- Before that senior-most of the three Chiefs used to be the **Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.**

About Chiefs of Staff Committee

- The Chiefs of Staff Committee consists of the most senior military personnel. They advise on the operational military matters as well as on the preparation and conduct of the military operations.
- The **Chiefs of Staff Committee** consists of the heads of each branch of the armed forces: **Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, and Chief of Army.**
- **Chiefs of Staff Committee consists of CDS who is the Chairman** and the professional head of the forces. The establishment of the Chiefs of Staff Committee goes back to the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

#PM MODI INAUGURATED SARYU NATIONAL PROJECT

- PM Modi inaugurated **Saryu Nahar National Project in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh** on December 11, 2021.
- The work on **Saryu Nahar National Project** had started in 1978; however, because of a lack of continuity of budgetary support, adequate monitoring, and interdepartmental coordination, the ambitious project got delayed and was not completed even after nearly 4 decades.
- In 2016, **Saryu Nahar National Project** was brought under **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** with a target of completing it in a time-bound manner.



- The renewed focus on the project by the Central Government resulted in the project being completed in the time period of only about 4 years.

About Saryu Nahar National Project in Balrampur

- The **Saryu National Project in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh** has been built with a total cost of more than Rs. 9,800 crores, out of which more than Rs. 4,600 crores have been provisioned in the last 4 years.
- The ambitious Saryu Nahar National Project involves the interlinking of 5 rivers- Saryu, Ghaghara, Banganga, Rapti, and Rohini in order to ensure the optimum usage of water resources in the region.

Why Saryu Nahar National Project in UP is significant?

- The **project inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi** will provide assured water for irrigation of over 14 lakh hectares of land and will benefit about 29 lakh farmers of over 6200 villages.
- Saryu Nahar National Project will benefit **9 districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh** namely- Shravasti, Bahraich, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Gonda, Sant Kabir Nagar, Basti, Maharajganj, and Gorakhpur.
- The farmers of the mentioned region who were also the worst sufferers of the inordinate delay in the project will now immensely benefit from the **upgraded irrigation potential**.
- With the help of the project, the farmers will now be able to grow crops on a larger scale and maximize the agri-potential of the region.

#FIVE COUNTRIES TO BE CHIEF GUEST OF REPUBLIC DAY

- India has invited the five central Asian countries namely **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan**, as the chief guest for Republic Day celebrations, 2022.
- This is for the first-time that representatives of all five Central Asian countries would be guest at the Republic Day celebrations.
- **The last time they attended the ASEAN Summit together in 2018.**
- India shares historical, cultural and civilisational linkages with these countries. Their presence at the Republic Day celebrations will help in strengthening the relationship between both the sides.

**Dignitaries at Republic Day celebrations in India**

- Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took charge in 2014, India invited
 - Then-US President Barack Obama in 2015
 - Then-French President Francois Hollande in 2016
 - UAE's Md Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2017
 - All 10 ASEAN countries in 2018
 - Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa in 2019 and
 - Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil in 2020, for the Republic Day.
 - United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson was expected to attend Republic Day celebrations in 2021, but he couldn't attend because of Covid-19 pandemic.

Central Asian-India Foreign Minister's meet

- India will also be hosting the Central Asian-India Foreign Minister's meet on December 18 and 19, 2021. Its first meeting was held in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in January 2019**. The second meeting was held virtually due to covid-19.

India's support to central Asian countries

- India has been providing its financial support to Central Asian countries. India has announced a line of credit worth US \$1 billion to support the development of projects in fields like energy, IT, connectivity, healthcare, agriculture and education for the central Asian countries, in the past.
- India has also pitched for **Chabahar port in Iran** to get an easier route for connectivity.

#PM MODI INAUGURATED KASHI VISHWANATH CORRIDOR PROJECT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the phase 1 of Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi on December 13, 2021. The Dham has been constructed at a **cost of around Rs 339 crores**.
- The Prime Minister earlier offered prayers to Lord Shiva at **Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project** connects two iconic landmarks in the temple town - the Kashi Vishwanath temple to the banks of River Ganga in Varanasi.
- Under Phase I of the project, a variety of facilities have been opened for the pilgrims including Yatri Suvidha Kendras, tourist facilitation centre and vedic centers.

**Kashi Vishwanath Dham Project Plan: All you need to know!**

- The **Phase 1 of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham** has been constructed at a cost of Rs 339 crores.
- The '**Jyotirling**' of Kashi Vishwanath temple is considered to be the most important among other twelve Jyotirlingas. This is why lakhs of devotees come to offer prayers at the temple.
- The temple was only situated at 2,000 metres, but now it has been spread over 50,000 square metres.
- A total of 23 buildings will be inaugurated under Phase 1 of the project. They include a variety of facilities to the pilgrims **visiting Kashi Vishwanath Temple** including Tourist Facilitation Centre, Yatri Suvidha Kendras, Bhogshala, Food Court, Vedic Kendra, Mumukshu Bhavan, City Museum, Viewing Gallery among others.
- The project involved purchase and acquisition of over 300 properties around Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple. PM Modi's vision of taking everyone along was the principle that was applied even while conducting negotiations for these acquisitions.
- The acquisitions led to amicable rehabilitation of around 1400 shopkeepers, tenants and homeowners.
- There is no litigation pending in any court regarding acquisitions or rehabilitation related to the development of the project.

Kashi Vishwanath Dham History

- The **Kashi Vishwanath Dham was conceptualised** as a project to create an easily accessible pathway to connect Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple to the banks of the River Ganga.
- This is to realise PM Modi's vision to facilitate devotees who had to encounter congested streets when they practiced the traditional custom of taking dip in the holy river and collect Gangajal and offer it at the temple.
- The **foundation stone for the project was laid by the Prime Minister** himself on March 8, 2019. He also took a keen interest at all stages of the project and held regular briefings, reviews and monitoring session.
- He constantly gave inputs and insights to improve the project and make it more accessible for pilgrims, especially those with disabilities.
- The project has been designed to provide easy access for the old age people and those with different

abilities with the provision of ramps, escalators and other modern facilities.

Background

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is also scheduled to attend the 98th-anniversary celebrations of SadguruSadaFaldeoVihangamYogSansthan at SwarvedMahamandir in Varanasi on December 14.
- The **Prime Minister will also participate in a conclave including Chief Ministers of all BJP-ruled states-** Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand and Deputy CMs from Bihar and Nagaland.

#WHAT IS MISSION SAGAR?

Recently, **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari** has reached the **Port of Maputo, Mozambique** to deliver 500 tonnes of food aid to support the efforts of Government of Mozambique to cope with ongoing drought and concurrent challenges of pandemic.

- India has also **delivered two fast interceptor craft and self-defence military equipment** to Mozambique.
- This is the **eighth such deployment in consonance with the Prime Minister's vision of Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** and is being conducted in close coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs, and other agencies of the Government of India.



Mission Sagar:

- **Launched in May 2020, 'Mission Sagar'** was India's initiative to deliver Covid-19 related assistance to the countries in the Indian Ocean Littoral states. The countries included were **Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles**.
- Under 'Mission Sagar', the **Indian Navy has been deploying its ships to send medical and humanitarian aid** to the countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond.
- Under the mission, the **Indian Navy has delivered assistance** of more than 3,000 metric tons of food aid, over 300 metric tons of liquid medical oxygen, 900 oxygen concentrators and 20 ISO containers to 15 friendly foreign countries.
- In November 2020, as part of **Mission Sagar-II**, INS Airavat delivered food aid to Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea.
- **Mission Sagar-III** is part of India's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to friendly foreign countries during the ongoing **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- The assistance has been delivered to **Vietnam and Cambodia**. It highlights the importance accorded to **ASEAN countries** and further strengthens the existing bonds.

Significance:

- **India's extended Maritime Neighbourhood:** These deployments were conducted in solidarity with **India's extended Maritime Neighbourhood** and highlights the importance accorded by India to these special relationships.

- This is **in continuance with India's role as the first responder** at a time of an exigency to the friendly nations.
- **Useful in Tackling Terrorism:** The equipment will be **useful as Mozambique is hit by terrorism** in its North.
- **Terrorist group Islamic State**, also known as **Da'esh**, and its affiliates have rapidly spread in Central Africa.

Tackling Common Maritime Challenges:

- This also helps in tackling common maritime challenges (traditional maritime conflicts between nation-states, environmental threats, threats by non-state actors (maritime terrorism and piracy), illicit maritime trades and trafficking) in the region.
- This was a **major theme of discussion** at the second edition of the **Goa Maritime Conclave** in November (2021) which brings together countries in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

Vision 'SAGAR'

- **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** was launched in 2015. It is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Through SAGAR, **India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation** with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities.
- Further, India seeks to **safeguard its national interests** and ensure the Indian Ocean region to become inclusive, collaborative and respect international law.
- 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.

#KANPUR METRO RAIL PROJECT

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to visit Kanpur on December 28, 2021 and inaugurate the completed section of Kanpur Metro Rail Project.
- Prime Minister will also inaugurate "**Bina-Panki multi-product pipeline project**". Later, he will address the 54th convocation ceremony of IIT-Kanpur.

Kanpur Metro Rail project

- **Kanpur Metro is a rail-based mass transit system.** It is under construction for the city of Kanpur. The project is extendable to the Kanpur metropolitan area.
- The feasibility study for this project was done in June 2015 by RITES. Under the project, metro will run for a distance of 32 kilometres. It is being built at a cost of Rs 11000 crore.
- Construction of red line started on November 15, 2019 with 9 km stretch from IIT Kanpur to Moti Jheel. Its tender has been awarded to **AFCONS infrastructure Ltd.** First section of the project will be opened in January 2022.



Background

- Central government has **approved the Kanpur Metro Project** on February 28, 2019, at an estimated cost of more than Rs 11,000 crores and a five-year time limit.
- The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** has also proposed to provide a €650 million loan for this project.

Bina-Panki Project

- The 356-km long Bina-Panki project has a capacity of 3.45 million metric tonne per annum. The project extends from **Bina refinery in Madhya Pradesh to Panki in Kanpur**.
- It has been built at a cost of more than Rs 1,500 crore. The refinery will help in accessing petroleum products in the region.

#BELAGAVI DISPUTE B/W KARNATAKA & MAHARASHTRA

The **decades-old dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra over the Belagavi** or as Maharashtra likes to call it the Belgaum district, is back in the headlines.

- Belgaum or Belagavi** is currently part of Karnataka but is claimed by Maharashtra.



About:

- In 1957, slighted by the implementation of the **States Reorganisation Act, 1956**, Maharashtra demanded readjustment of its border with Karnataka.
- Maharashtra invoked **Section 21 (2) (b) of the Act** and submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs stating its objection to Marathi-speaking areas being added to Karnataka.
- It claimed an **area of 2,806 square miles** that involved 814 villages, and three urban settlements of Belagavi, Karwar and Nippani with a total population of about 6.7 lakh, all part of the Mumbai Presidency before independence.
- The villages are spread across Belagavi and Uttar Kannada in north-western Karnataka, and Bidar and Gulbarga districts in north-eastern Karnataka — all bordering Maharashtra.
- Later, when a **four-member committee was formed by both States**, Maharashtra expressed willingness to transfer predominantly Kannada-speaking 260 villages with a population of about 3.25 lakh and total area of 1,160 square miles.
- This was in lieu of accepting its demand for 814 villages and three urban settlements, which was turned down by Karnataka.

Basis of Maharashtra's Claim:

- Maharashtra's claim to seek the readjustment of its border **was on the basis of contiguity, relative linguistic majority and wishes of the people**. If the claim over Belagavi and surrounding areas was based on Marathi-speaking people and linguistic homogeneity, it laid its claim over Karwar and Supa where Konkani is spoken by citing Konkani as a dialect of Marathi.

- Its argument was **based on the theory of villages being the unit for calculation** and enumerated linguistic population in each village. Maharashtra also points out the historical fact that the revenue records in these Marathi-speaking areas are also kept in Marathi.

Karnataka's Position:

- Karnataka has argued that the **settlement of boundaries as per the States Reorganisation Act is final**.
- The boundary of the State was neither tentative nor flexible. The State argues that the **issue would reopen border issues** that have not been contemplated under the Act, and that such a demand should not be permitted.

Steps Taken to Resolve the Issue:

- In 1960, **both States agreed to set up a four-man committee** with two representatives from each State. Except on the issue of contiguity, the committee could not arrive at a unanimous decision.
- Between the 1960s and 1980s, chief ministers of Karnataka and Maharashtra have met several times to find a solution to the vexed issue but with no avail.
- **Response of Union Government:**
- The central government constituted the **Mahajan Committee in 1966** to assess the situation. Representatives from both sides, Maharashtra and the then Mysore state were part of the committee.
- In **1967**, the committee recommended that **some villages in Karwar, Haliyal and Suparna talukas of Karnataka be given to Maharashtra but left Belagavi** with the southern state.

Response of the Supreme Court:

- In 2006, the **Supreme Court held that the issue should be resolved through mutual negotiation** and that linguistic criterion should not be considered as it may create more practical problems.
- The case is **still being heard by the Supreme Court**.
- **Other Border Disputes between Different States:**
- **Boundary issue between Assam and Mizoram**
- **Odisha's Border Disputes**

Reorganization of States in India

- At the time of independence in 1947, **India consisted of nearly 550 disjointed princely states**.
- In 1950, the Constitution contained a four-fold classification of the states of the Indian Union—Part A, Part B, Part C and Part D States.
- **Part-A** states comprised nine erstwhile governor's provinces of British India.
- **Part-B** states consisted of nine erstwhile princely states with legislatures.
- **Part-C** states consisted of the erstwhile chief commissioner's province of British India and some of the erstwhile princely states.
- **Part-D** state comprised the Andaman and Nicobar Islands only.
- The grouping of states at the time was done **on the basis of political and historical considerations rather than on linguistic or cultural divisions**, but this was a temporary arrangement.
- On account of the multilingual nature and differences that existed between various states, there was a need for the states to be reorganized on a permanent basis.

- In this context, **in 1948, SK Dhar committee** - was appointed by the government to look into the need for the reorganization of states on a linguistic basis.
- The Commission **preferred reorganisation of states on the basis of administrative convenience** including historical and geographical considerations instead of on linguistic lines.
- This created much resentment and led to the appointment of another Linguistic Provinces Committee.
- **In December 1948, the JVP Committee** comprising Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabh Bhai Patel and PattabhiSitaramayya was formed to study the issue.
- The Committee, in its report submitted in April 1949, rejected the idea of reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis but said that the issue could be looked at afresh in the light of public demand.
- However, due to protests, **in October 1953, the Government of India created the first linguistic state, known as Andhra state**, by separating the Telugu speaking areas from the Madras state.
- On **22nd December 1953**, Jawaharlal Nehru **appointed a commission under Fazl Ali** to consider the reorganisation of states.
- The commission submitted its report in 1955 and it suggested that the whole country be divided into 16 states and three centrally administered areas.
- The government, while not agreeing with the recommendations entirely, **divided the country into 14 states and 6 union territories under the States Reorganisation Act that was passed in November 1956.**
- Even after the large-scale reorganization of the states in 1956, the political map of India underwent continuous changes due to the pressure of popular agitations and political conditions.
- On **5th August 2019**, President of India in the exercise of the powers conferred by **Clause (1) of Article 370 of the Constitution** had issued the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019.
- This divided the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two new Union Territories (UTs): Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- Recently, **Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Act, 2019** has merged the Union Territories (UTs) of Daman and Diu (D&D) and Dadra and Nagar Haveli (DNH).
- Presently, India **comprises 28 states and 8 union territories.**

The screenshot displays the YouTube channel page for 'Success Mantra Digital'. The channel's banner image shows a group of people in front of a backdrop that reads 'ACADEMIA - 2018'. The channel name is 'Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation', and it has a 'SUBSCRIBED' button. The video uploads section shows several recent videos:

- AILET 2021 Paper Analysis | Success Mantra Coaching**: 187 views, Streamed 6 days ago. Duration: 49:46.
- NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section) ...**: 266 views, Streamed 1 week ago. Duration: 40:00.
- Why You Should Join The Legal Profession |...**: 356 views, Streamed 2 weeks ago. Duration: 1:11:35.
- NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...**: 163 views, Streamed 2 weeks ago. Duration: 16:10.

Subscribe Our YouTube Channel
SUCCESS MANTRA DIGITAL
 And Ace Your Entrance!!

