

# **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**JANUARY 2022**



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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

### #PADMA AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY HOME MINISTRY

- The **Home Ministry** announced the list of recipients of the Padma Awards which is one of the **highest civilian awards of India**.
- Padma Awards 2022** has been conferred upon a total of 128 people in three categories- Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- The **three Padma Awards** are later conferred by the President of India at a ceremonial function that will be held at Rashtrapati Bhawan around March or April every year.
- Some of the eminent names announced for Padma Awards 2022 are **India's first Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat** who died in December 2021 in a horrific chopper crash. He has been honoured posthumously with Padma Vibhushan.
- Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra and Singer Sonu Nigam** have been awarded Padma Shri while the heads of Microsoft and Google Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai have been named for Padma Bhushan.
- The full list of Padma Awards 2022 recipients comprises of 17 Padma Bhushan, 4 Padma Vibhushan, and 107 Padma Shri Awards.



### Padma Awards 2022: Padma Vibhushan

S. No.	Name	Field	State/Country
1	Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
2	RadheyshyamKhemka (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
3	General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
4	Shri Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

### Background:

- The Padma Awards are announced annually on the **Republic Day** (26<sup>th</sup> January).
- Instituted in **1954**, it is **one of the highest civilian honours** of India.
- Objective:** The Award seeks to recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an **element of public service is involved**.

### Categories:

- The Awards are given in three categories:
- Padma Vibhushan** (for exceptional and distinguished service),

- **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of higher-order) and
- **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).
- **Padma Vibhushan is highest in the hierarchy of Padma Awards** followed by Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

**Disciplines:** The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- **art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service** etc.

## Bharat Ratna

- **Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country.**
- It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the **highest order in any field of human endeavour.**
- It is treated on a different footing from Padma Award. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are **made by the Prime Minister to the President of India.**
- The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a **maximum of three** in a particular year.

## RELATED: INDIA CELEBRATED 73<sup>RD</sup> REPUBLIC DAY

Republic Day (73<sup>rd</sup>) is celebrated every year **on 26<sup>th</sup> January to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution**, which came into effect on this day in 1950.

- The Constitution is the supreme law of the land and citizens are expected to abide by it.

## Background:

- India became an independent nation on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947 — a date thrust upon by Lord Louis Mountbatten, as it marked the second anniversary of Japan's submission to allied powers after **World War II.**
- After India became independent, it did not have its own constitution. The laws were based on a common law system and a modified version of the "**Government of India Act, 1935**", which was brought in by the British government.
- Approximately two weeks later, a **Drafting Committee was appointed** to draft the Indian Constitution **with Dr BR Ambedkar as the chairman.** The Indian Constitution was finally ready and **adopted on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1949 (Constitution Day).**
- The Constitution came into effect after two months, on 26th January, 1950.
- The Indian National Congress, on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1929, passed a historic resolution of "**Purna Swaraj**" or **complete self-rule** at its Lahore session.
- It was declared by the Congress party that 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1930, will be celebrated as "Independence Day" by the Indians.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the President of Congress party, hoisted the tricolor on the banks of the Ravi river in Lahore. This day was celebrated as Poorna Swaraj day for the next 17 years.
- Thus, when the Constitution of India was adopted on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1949, many considered it necessary to celebrate and enforce the document on a day associated with national pride, which was – 26<sup>th</sup> January.

## Significance:

- Republic day is a monumental day in Indian history because it was on this day that India adopted its own Constitution and declared its own laws of the land.
- The **British colonial Government of India Act (1935) was finally replaced** and the country was set to make a fresh start.
- Additionally, it was also on this day that the **Preamble of the Constitution of India came into effect**.
- The Preamble is largely a comprehensive statement that presents the key principles of the Constitution.
- On this day India shed the **last relic of the colonial system and effected** a new dawn by becoming a **Sovereign Democratic Republic**.
- The day is **an occasion to commemorate the values of our democracy and Republic, to reaffirm our commitment** to liberty, fraternity and equality across our society and among all our citizens.
- The day celebrates **the desire of a huge nation that wants to be governed through one single constitution** giving another example of India's unity in diversity.

## #AIR INDIA HANDED OVER TO TATA GROUP

- The Government of India successfully **handed over Air India to the Tata Group** on January 27, 2022, nearly 69 years after it was taken from the TATAs.
- The **Tata Group, as part of the deal with the Government**, is also handed over the Air India Express and a 50% stake in the ground handling arm of Air India SATS.
- While this will be the Government of India's first privatization since 2003-2003, Air India will be the third airline brand in **Tata's stable as the conglomerate holds a majority interest in AirAsia India and Vistara**. It is a joint venture by Singapore Airlines Ltd.



## Air India: Key Points

- Maharaja is the official mascot of Air India. The airlines operate globally apart from domestic operations.
- Air India has also been carrying a substantial number of the latest aircraft in its fleet from both Airbus and Boeing which is also Air India's strength.

## #SALE OF AIR INDIA

- **Tata Sons and a group led by SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh** placed financial bids **for Air India**. This is a step towards the privatization of India's flag carrier Air India and the second attempt of the government to sell the loss-making national carrier.
- The Tata Sons submitted bids through its 100 per cent arm Talace Private Ltd and SpiceJet CEO Ajay Singh submitted its bids in his personal capacity along with some investment funds.



## Who were bidding for Air India?

- **Tata Sons**, who operate Vistara and AirAsia India is the frontrunner in the bidding process for the sale of Air India. The Tata Sons submitted **bids through its 100 per cent arm Talace Private Ltd.**
- The shareholders of the Company had approved a **fund-raise programme of Rs 40,000 crore** via non-convertible debentures to finance acquisitions and invest in businesses.
- If Tata Sons emerge as the successful bidder, then Air India will be back in the control of its founders. Tata Group had set Tata Airlines in 1932 which was renamed Air India in 1946. The Indian government took control of Air India in 1953.

## Air India Privatization: What will the successful bidder get?

- The successful bidder from the sale of **Air India** will get control of 4,400 domestic and 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports. The winning bidder will also get 900 slots across airports overseas.
- The successful bidder will also get 100 per cent of the low-cost arm **Air India Express** and **50 per cent of Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS)** which offers cargo and ground handling services at major Indian airports.

## Air India sale: Background

- In 2018, the government attempted to sell a 76 per cent stake in Air India but failed. Two years ago, the government trying to retain a 26 per cent stake in the loss-making **national carrier was a major hurdle in the disinvestment of Air India.**
- The **private sector was apprehensive in the airline privatization process** with a government-appointed board member.
- The government in its second attempt has sweetened the deal to complete the **Air India sale by December 2021.**
- The government in 2021 is willing to sell its 100 per cent stake in the Air India airline along with two other subsidiaries: low-cost Air India Express and a 50 per cent stake of **Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS).**
- In order to further ease the Air India privatization process, **the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has also offered tax relief on the transfer of capital assets of Air India to a holding company.
- The total debt of Air India has reached Rs 43,000 crores of which Rs 22,000 crores will be transferred to the **Air India Asset Holding Limited (AIAHL)** and the remaining will be borne by the successful bidder. The government will bear the amount transferred to AIAHL before the airline is transferred to the successful bidder.

**#RELATED SCHEME: KRISHI UDAN 2.0 BY CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY**

Recently, the **Union Minister of Civil Aviation** has released **Krishi UdeDesh Ka AamNaagrik (UDAN) 2.0** to facilitate movement of agricultural produce by air.

- It lays out the **vision of improving value realization** through better **integration and optimization of agri-harvesting and air transportation** and contributing to agri-value chain sustainability and resilience under different and dynamic conditions.
- Earlier, ahead of **UDAN Day (21<sup>st</sup> October)**, the Ministry of Civil Aviation **flagged off 6 routes**, expanding the aerial connectivity of North-East India, under the **UDAN Scheme**.

**About:**

- **Krishi UDAN** was launched in **August 2020**, on **international and national routes** to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.
- **Krishi UDAN 2.0** will focus on transporting **perishable food products** from the **hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas**.
- It will be **implemented at 53 airports across the country** mainly focusing on northeast and tribal regions and is likely to benefit farmers, freight forwarders and airlines.
- Opted airports not only **provide access to regional domestic markets** but also **connect them to international gateways of the country**.

**#50<sup>TH</sup> STATEHOOD DAY OF TRIPURA, MANIPUR & MEGHALAYA**

- India every year on January 21 observes the Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya signifying the beauty of cultural diversity that India has. **50th Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya** is also an opportunity to remember India of what it was and how we know it today.

- January 21 marks an important historical event as on this day **North East Reorganisation Act, 1971** was implemented providing statehood to Tripura, Meghalaya, and Manipur which is also known as the foundation day of these three states of India.



- **On the 50th Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya**, learn more about the history of these states and how they attained statehood.
- The foundation day of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya is observed every in India on January 21. **On this day the three states attained the status of statehood from the Government of India.**

**50th Statehood Day of Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya: History**

- **Manipur & Tripura**, which were the former Princely states, were merged into the Indian Union in October 1949 and they became full states on January 21, 1972, under the **North Eastern Region (Re-**

**Organisation) Act, 1971.** Meghalaya, which was part of Assam, also received its statehood under the same act.

- Soon after the country gained independence from British Rule, the princely states that had blended into the Indian Union had started receiving statehood. On one hand, **where Tripura and Manipur were granted the status of Union Territories in 1949, Meghalaya was still a part of Assam.**
- **Later, in 1969, through Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Act, 1969,** the state successfully received autonomous state recognition.
- It was finally on January 21, 1972, that Tripura, Meghalaya, and Manipur, with the introduction of the North Eastern Region (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, attained complete statehood.

## • **50th Statehood Day of Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura: Facts about the three states**

- Tripura in North East shares its borders with Bangladesh to the North, South, and West. It also borders the states of Mizoram and Assam to the East. The Hindu-Bengali population forms the majority in the state.
- Meghalaya is the wettest region of India. The state shares its **border to the South by the Bangladesh divisions of Sylhet and Mymensingh.**
- Manipur borders Mizoram in the South, Nagaland in the North, Myanmar in the East, and Assam in the West. The state is home to the **Kuki, Meitei, Pangal, and Naga** ethnic people who **speak Sino-Tibetan languages.**

## OTHER ISSUES IN NEWS:

### Greater Tipraland Demand

Recently, several tribal outfits in Tripura have joined hands to push their demand for a separate state, **Greater Tipraland** for indigenous communities in the region.

- Among the political parties that have come together for the cause are **TIPRA Motha** (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance) and **IPFT** (Indigenous People's Front of Tripura).

### The Demand:

- The parties are demanding a **separate state of 'Greater Tipraland'** for the indigenous communities of the north-eastern state.
- They **want the Centre to carve out the separate state under Article 2 and 3** of the Constitution.
- Among the 19 notified **Scheduled Tribes** in Tripura, **Tripuris** (aka Tipra and Tiprasas) **are the largest.**
- According to the 2011 census, **there are at least 5.92 lakh Tripuris in the state**, followed by **Bru or Reang** (1.88 lakh) and **Jamatias** (83,000).

### Article 2 & 3

- **Article 2:** Parliament may by law **admit into the Union, or establish, new States** on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit.



- However, **Parliament cannot establish a new union territory by passing a law that can only be done through a constitutional amendment.**
- States like Sikkim (previously not within India) became a part of the country under Article 2.
- **Article 3:** It empowered the Parliament to **make law relating to the formation of new states** and alteration of existing states.

## ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BORDER DISPUTE

- Assam and Meghalaya share an **885-km-long border**. As of now, there are **12 points of dispute along their borders**.
- The Assam-Meghalaya border dispute are the areas of Upper Tarabari, Gazang reserve forest, Hahim, Langpih, Borduar, Boklapara, Nongwah, Matamur, Khanapara-Pilangkata, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II, Khanduli and Retacherra.
- Meghalaya was carved out of Assam under the **Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971**, a law that it challenged, leading to disputes.

### Major Point of Contention:

- A major point of contention between Assam and Meghalaya is the **district of Langpih in West Garo Hills** bordering the Kamrup district of Assam.
- Langpih was part of the Kamrup district during the British colonial period but post-Independence, it became part of the **Garo Hills** and Meghalaya.
- Assam considers it to be part of the **Mikir Hills in Assam**.
- Meghalaya has questioned Blocks I and II of the Mikir Hills -now KarbiAnglong region - being part of Assam. Meghalaya says these were parts of erstwhile United Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts.

### Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958:

- A reincarnation of the British-era legislation that was enacted to quell the protests during the **Quit India movement**, the AFSPA was issued by way of four ordinances in 1947.
- The ordinances were **replaced by an Act in 1948** and the present law effective in the Northeast was introduced in Parliament in 1958 by the then Home Minister, G.B. Pant.
- It was known initially as the **Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Act, 1958**.
- After the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland came into being, the Act was adapted to apply to these States as well.

### About:

- The ASFPA gives **unfettered powers to the armed forces and the Central armed police forces** deployed in “disturbed areas” to kill anyone acting in contravention of law and arrest and search any premises without a warrant and with protection from prosecution and legal suits.
- The law first came into **effect in 1958 to deal with the uprising in the Naga Hills**, followed by the insurgency in Assam.

### Disturbed Areas:

- The Act was **amended in 1972** and the **powers to declare an area as “disturbed”** were conferred concurrently upon the Central government along with the States.
- Currently, the **Union Home Ministry issues periodic “disturbed area”** notification to extend AFSPA only for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The notification for **Manipur and Assam is issued by the State governments.**
- Tripura revoked the Act in 2015 and Meghalaya was under AFSPA for 27 years, until it was revoked by the MHA from 1st April 2018.
- The Act was implemented in a 20-km area along the border with Assam.
- Jammu and Kashmir has a separate **J&K Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1990.**

### #INDIAN ARMY DAY OBSERVED ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

- The **Indian Army Day is observed in India** every year on January 15 with great zeal. Every year, the day is celebrated by conducting a military parade and various other martial displays at the Cariappa Parade Ground of Delhi Cantonment.
- In 2022, India celebrates **74th Indian Army Day** highlighting and acknowledging the sacrifices made by the Armed forces of India.
- The Indian Army Day celebrates and honour each soldier in the armed forces for their selfless service for the country and the citizens.
- However, the celebrations for the Indian Army Day 2022, will take place COVID-19 protocols in place as India is currently battling the third wave of **COVID-19 pandemic with the spread of the Omicron variant.**
- On Indian Army Day 2022, **Army Chief General MM Naravane and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari** paid tribute to the martyrs at the National War Memorial in Delhi.



### Why Army Day is celebrated on January 15 in India?

- The **Brit Indian Army was founded on April 1, 1895**, within the British Administration and at the time it was known as the British Indian Army.
- After India gained its independence on August 15, 1947, it was not until January 15, 1949, that the country received its first-ever Indian Chief. **In 1949, Lt Gen KM Cariappa succeeded General Francis Butcher**, the last British commander-in-chief of the Indian Army, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces.

### Indian Army Day 2022 Significance

- **In 1949 as Lt Gen KM Cariappa** became the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the handover of the authority of the armed forces from Britishers to India was seen as a watershed moment in Indian History. The **Indian Army Day** also marks to pay tributes to the Indian troops who have sacrificed themselves for the country.

## How Indian Army Day is celebrated?

- The Indian Army Day was recognized to pay tributes to the **martyred Indian Army personnel at the 'Amar Jawan Jyoti'** at the New Delhi's India Gate.
- After the tribute Army Day, a parade with the military demonstrations is organized highlighting the Indian Army's modern achievements and technologies. On Indian Army Day, bravery honours such as Sena Medals and Division Credentials, are also presented.

## #AMAR JAWAN JYOTI MERGED WITH NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

- **Amar Jawan Jyoti flame at India Gate was merged with the flame at the National War Memorial** in a solemn ceremony on January 21, 2022.
- The eternal flame of Amar Jawan Jyoti had been burning for 50 years, ever since it was built in 1972 to **honour the Indian soldiers who martyred in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**.



## Amar Jawan Jyoti History

- The India Gate was built by the British in memory of 84,000 Indian Army soldiers who martyred during World War-I and the Third Anglo-Afghan War (1919) between 1914-1921. **The India Gate has names of the soldiers inscribed on its surface.**
- The **Amar Jawan Jyoti** was included in the memorial structure in the 1970s after India's massive victory over Pakistan in 1971, which paved the way for the creation of Bangladesh.

## National War Memorial

- The **National War Memorial** was built in the India Gate complex by the Narendra Modi government and inaugurated in February 2019.
- The National War Memorial was built in memory of all the Indian soldiers and unsung heroes who down their **lives for India in different operations starting from the 1947-48 war with Pakistan**.

## OTHER RELATED NEWS

### HOLOGRAM STATUE OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

Recently, the government has decided to **install a grand statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** at India Gate to commemorate his **125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary** and as part of the year long celebrations.

- The **Subhas Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskars**, for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in the investiture ceremony will also be conferred.



**Subhas Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar**

- The **annual Subhas Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar** has been instituted to **recognize and honour the invaluable contribution** and selfless service rendered by individuals and organisations in India in the field of **disaster management**.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January.
- It carries a **cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh** and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.
- **Birth:** Subhas Chandra Bose was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province, to PrabhavatiDutt Bose and Janakinath Bose.
- The central government has decided to observe **Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti as 'ParakramDiwas'** to be celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.
- A high-level committee headed by the Prime Minister has also been formed to plan year-round programmes to mark the anniversary of Bose.
- Recently the Government of India has also instituted **Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskaar** to recognise the excellent work done by the individuals and institutions in the field of disaster management.

**Indian National Army:**

- He reached **Japanese-controlled Singapore** from Germany in July 1943, issued from there his famous call, '**Delhi Chalo**', and announced the formation of the **Azad Hind Government** and the **Indian National Army** on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1943.
- The INA was **first formed under Mohan Singh** and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara and comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan (present-day Malaysia) campaign and at Singapore.
- The INA fought allied forces in 1944 inside the borders of India in Imphal and in Burma.
- In November 1945, a British move to put the INA men on trial immediately sparked massive demonstrations all over the country.

**#ASSAM-MEGHALAYA BOUNDARY DISPUTE**

Ahead of Meghalaya's 50<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day celebration on 21<sup>st</sup> January, the Home Minister is expected to seal the final agreement to end the dispute in six areas of the Assam-Meghalaya boundary.



- **About:** Assam and Meghalaya share an 885-km-long border. As of now, there are 12 points of dispute along their borders.
- The Assam-Meghalaya border dispute are the areas of Upper Tarabari, Gazang reserve forest, Hahim, Langpih, Borduar, Boklapara, Nongwah, Matamur, Khanapara-Pilangkata, Deshdemoreah Block I and Block II, Khanduli and Retacherra.
- Meghalaya was carved out of Assam under the **Assam Reorganisation Act, 1971**, a law that it challenged, leading to disputes.

**Major Point of Contention:**

- A major point of contention between Assam and Meghalaya is the **district of Langpih in West Garo Hills** bordering the Kamrup district of Assam.
- Langpih was part of the Kamrup district during the British colonial period but post-Independence, it became part of the **Garo Hills** and Meghalaya.
- Assam considers it to be part of the **Mikir Hills in Assam**.
- Meghalaya has questioned Blocks I and II of the Mikir Hills -now KarbiAnglong region - being part of Assam. Meghalaya says these were parts of erstwhile United Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts.

**Efforts to Resolve Disputes:**

- **Both Assam and Meghalaya have constituted** border dispute settlement committees.
- **It has been decided to set up** two regional committees to resolve the border disputes **in a phased manner and five aspects will be considered while resolving the border dispute.**
- **They are historical facts, ethnicity, administrative convenience, mood and sentiments of the people concerned and the contiguity of the land.**
- **Six sites are in consideration in the first phase.** These are Tarabari, Gijang, Hahim, Baklapara, Khanapara-Pilingkata and Ratacherra.
- **These disputed areas are part of Cachar, Kamrup Metro and Kamrup Rural on Assam's side and West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi district and East Jaintia Hills on Meghalaya's side.**

**Assam and Border Issues:**

- The states of the **Northeast were largely carved out of Assam**, which has border disputes with several states.
- Assam's border disputes with **Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland** are pending in the **Supreme Court**.



- Assam's **border disputes with Mizoram** are currently in the phase of resolution through negotiations.
- **Other Border Disputes between Different States:**
- **Belagavi Border Dispute** (between Karnataka and Maharashtra)

## Odisha's Border Disputes

- Boundary disputes between the states can be **settled by using satellite mapping of the actual border locations**.
- Reviving the **Inter-state council** can be an option for resolution of an Inter-state dispute.
- Under **Article 263 of the Constitution**, the Inter-state council is expected to inquire and advise on disputes, discuss subjects common to all states and make recommendations for better policy coordination.
- Similarly, **Zonal councils need to be revived** to discuss the matters of common concern to states in each zone—matters relating to social and economic planning, border disputes, inter-state transport, etc.
- India is the epitome of unity in diversity. However, in order to strengthen this unity furthermore, **both the centre and state governments need to imbibe the ethos of cooperative federalism**.

## #RELATED: 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 **22<sup>nd</sup> 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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**#IMPORTANT CENTRAL SCHEMES IN 2021**

- The **Govt. of India** released some of the major developmental schemes in 2021. The govt schemes in 2021 covered various sectors ranging from health to providing 4G services to the farthest of villages.
- As the country was crippled with the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the schemes introduced by the Modi govt were targeted particularly to strengthen the health infrastructure of the country, some of them were, **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Ayushman Bharat CAPF Healthcare Scheme, among others.**
- To know more, go through the compilation of Central Government schemes 2021. Find the list of top 10 schemes of the Indian Government in 2021 which were introduced for the greater good of citizens of India.

**Ayushman Bharat CAPF Healthcare Scheme**

- '**Ayushman Bharat CAPF**' healthcare scheme was launched for the personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in all states in a phased manner.
- The healthcare scheme was a joint initiative by the **Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Health Authority.**
- The CAPF Healthcare scheme aims to provide cashless and paperless medical treatment at the empanelled hospitals and will also ensure access to health services **across the country to CAPF personnel.**

**Gram Ujala Scheme**

- **The Gram Ujala scheme** was launched by the Power Ministry in the Lok Sabha constituency of PM Modi, Varanasi.
- Under the Gram Ujala scheme, the government offers the world's cheapest LED bulbs in rural areas at Rs.10. It aimed at promoting a better standard of life, more economic activity, financial savings, and better safety for the rural citizens of UP while also further extending to other states.

**PM GatiShakti**

- **PM GatiShakti- National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity** was launched by Prime Minister Modi in October 2021 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The scheme is worth Rs. 100 lakh crores. **PM GatiShakti** aims at addressing the past issues through institutionalizing the holistic planning for stakeholders for the major infrastructure projects. The plan of PM GatiShakti was announced by PM Modi during his address on Independence Day 2021.

**Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana**

- **Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana** was launched by the Railways Minister. It is a programme under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Under the scheme, entry-level training will be provided to the youth in industry-relevant skills through Railway Training Institutes.

- The **training under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana** will be provided to 50,000 candidates over a period of three years. It will initially be provided to 1000 candidates in four trades -Welder, Electrician, Fitter, and Machinist.

### PM-Daksh Yojana

- **Pradhan Mantri DakshtaAurKushaltaSampannHitgarhi (PM-DAKSH) Yojana** was implemented by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry from the year 2021-22.
- **Under PM-Daksh Yojana**, eligible target groups are provided with the skill development training programmes on Short Term Training Program; Up-Skilling/Re-Skilling; Entrepreneurship Development Programme, and Long Term Training Programme.

### RBI's Retail Direct Scheme, Integrated Ombudsmen Schemes

- Two innovative, customer-centric initiatives of the **Reserve Bank of India namely the RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** was launched by PM Modi in November 2021.
- The **Retail Direct Scheme of RBI** aims to enhance access to the government securities market for retail investors while the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' with one portal, one email, and one address for the customers to lodge their complaints.

### Govt Scheme to provide 4G network in over 7,000 villages

- Under a scheme by the Central Government, 4G mobile services will be provided in over 7,000 villages across five states- Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Odisha.
- Under the recent Union Cabinet approved scheme, 4G-based mobile services will be provided in 7,287 uncovered villages of 44 Aspirational Districts. The 4G mobile services in the remote and difficult uncovered areas across 5 states will help in enhancing digital connectivity.

### Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** was virtually launched by Prime Minister Modi in September 2021. Prime Minister had announced the pilot project of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in his speech on August 15, 2020.
- The Mission will ensure the security, confidentiality, and privacy of health-related personal information, and enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will help in empowering citizens with modern healthcare systems.

### Pradhan Mantri AtmanirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana

- **PM Modi** in Oct. 2021 had launched the 'PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission'.
- **Pradhan Mantri AtmanirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana** by the Central Government is one of the largest pan-India schemes that will focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Modi in addition to the National Health Mission.

### Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, AMRUT 2.0



- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0 were launched by Prime Minister Modi in August 2021.
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban was initiated by the center back in 2014 to eliminate open defecation and improve solid waste management. **The Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** aims to continue the work done under the first phase of the mission.
- AMRUT 2.0** will aim to make cities self-reliant and ensure water security. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation was launched in 2015 by **PM Modi to ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply to bring about a transformation in urban areas.**

### #CHHATTISGARH LAUNCHED 'ROJGAR MISSION'

- The **Chhattisgarh Government** is to launch an employment mission called the Rojgar Mission. The mission aims to create 15 lakh job opportunities in the state in the next five years.
- The mission will leverage experts from IITs, IIITs, IIMs. It is to be headed by the Chief Minister of the state. The others taking active roles in the mission are chief secretary and principal secretary of the state.



#### Implementing committee

- The **chief minister is the chairman**. The Chief Secretary of the state is the vice chairman and the principal secretary will act as Chief Executive Officer. **The committee will also include the managing director of minor forest produce federation of the state.**

#### Outcomes

- The **mission is expected to create 12 to 15 lakhs of job opportunities in the next five years**. The state has already excelled in minor forest produce.
- In 2021, Chhattisgarh secured ten national awards for good procurement, processing and performance. It has also excelled in implementing Van Dhan Yojana. The committee is to focus more on this area. This will help boost the employment around minor forest produces and will help the tribals largely.
- Unemployment in Chhattisgarh:** According to report released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) in 2022, the unemployment rate in Chhattisgarh is 2.1%. The state ranks fourth among the states with lowest unemployment rate.

#### Key Findings of CMIE on Chhattisgarh

- The **recent economic recession caused by COVID** did not affect the state as much as it did to the other states. The unemployment rate in the country was 6.52% in January 2021.

## #AP GOVT. ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF 13 NEW DISTRICTS

- Andhra Pradesh government has announced the formation of **13 new districts under the AP Districts Formation Act, Section 3(5)**.
- The new districts in Andhra Pradesh have been formed based on the Parliamentary constituencies. They are carved out from the 13 existing districts, **bringing the total number of districts in the state to 26**.
- The state government, while giving recognition to the freedom fighter **Alluri Sitharama Raju**, has named a district after him.
- While respecting the religious backgrounds of the areas, the government has also named the districts including **Annamayya District, Sri Balaji district, and Sri Satyasai district**.



### About the new districts

- The Araku Lok Sabha constituency in Visakhapatnam **was divided into two districts**.
- The 26 districts are** Srikulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju district, Visakhapatnam, Sri Balaji district, Chittoor, Annamayya, YSR Kadappa, Sri Satyasai district, Ananthapuram, Nandyal, Kurnool, SPS Nellore, Prakasam, Palnadu, Bapatla, Guntur, NTR district, Krishna, Eluru, West Godavari, East Godavari, Kona Seema, Kakinada, Anakapalli.
- Before this, a new district was created in 1979 in an undivided Andhra Pradesh. **It was Vizianagaram district**.

### Creation of New District

- Role of State:** The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments.
- This can **either be done through an executive order or by passing a law** in the State Assembly. Many States prefer the executive route by simply issuing a notification in the official gazette.
- Purpose of Creation:** States argue that smaller districts **lead to better administration and governance**.
- For example, in 2016, the **Assam government** issued a notification to upgrade the Majuli sub-division to **Majuli district** for "administrative expediency".

### Role of Centre:

- The Centre has **no role to play in the alteration of districts or creation of new ones**. States are free to decide.
- Role of Home Ministry:** The Home Ministry comes into the picture **when a State wants to change the name of a district or a railway station**.

- The State government's request is sent to other departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Intelligence Bureau, Department of Posts, Geographical Survey of India Sciences and the Railway Ministry seeking clearance.
- A **no-objection certificate** may be issued after examining their replies.

### Number of Districts in India:

- According to the **2011 Census**, there were **593 districts** in the country.
- Between 2001-2011, as many as 46 districts were created by States.
- Though the **2021 Census** is yet to happen, **currently there are 718 districts in the country**.
- The surge in number is also due to **bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh** into A.P and Telangana in 2014.

### #RELATED ISSUE: CONTROVERSY OVER THE CAPITAL OF AP

- **Confusion over the capital of Andhra Pradesh is still there**, despite eight years of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh state.
- On February 2, 2022, a debate was held in Rajya Sabha, **on the issue of capital of Andhra Pradesh**.

### Decision of Amaravati as Capital

- Amaravati region was decided as capital by **then TDP government** after bifurcation of the state.
- In 2019 elections, YSRCP government came to power and announced to set up three capitals in the name of decentralisation of governance.
- But farmers of Amaravati were upset with the decision and are opposing this decision since then. *However, YSRCP government withdrawn the three capital bills in November 2021, citing technical flaws.*

### Three capitals of Andhra Pradesh- Background

- State government had notified AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020 as well as AP Capital Region Development Authority (Repeal) Act, 2020, on July 31, 2020. This law made way for three capitals for the state, namely
  - **Amaravati**, as legislative capital.
  - **Visakhapatnam**, as executive capital and
  - **Kurnool**, as judicial capital.
- Government of the state was against building one mega capital while neglecting other parts. Government was of the view that, three capitals will ensure equal development of different regions in the state.

### Recommendations by different committees

- **Major committees viz.,** K Sivaramakrishnan Committee, B N Srikrishna Committee, and G N Rao Committee etc, recommended for decentralisation, while suggesting a suitable location for capital.
- **Indian states with multiple capitals:**
  - Maharashtra has two capitals namely, **Mumbai and Nagpur (holds the winter session of state assembly).**

- Himachal Pradesh has two capitals at **Shimla and Dharamshala (winter capital)**.

## #INDIAN ENVIRONMENT SERVICES (IES)

- The Supreme Court asked the Centre whether it was planning a dedicated **Indian Environment Service in India's bureaucratic set-up**.
- In 2014, a **committee headed by former Cabinet secretary TSR Subramanian** had recommended to set up Indian Environment Service
- Petition was filed by a lawyer Samar Vijay Singh, for the creation of an independent Indian Environment Services at all-India level.
- However, prima facie it is doubtful if a mandamus can be issued. Though, an enquiry can be made on whether the government proposes to **follow the recommendation of TSR Subramanian committee**.

**Note:** The high-level committee was constituted in August 2014 under the chairmanship of Subramanian by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests And Climate Change (MoEF& CC)**. The committee was established to **review** environmental laws in the country and to bring them in line with the then required needs.

### TSR Subramanian committee

- The **TSR Subramanian committee** was constituted in August 2014, under the chairmanship of Subramanian.
- It was constituted by the ministry of environment, forests and **climate change for reviewing environmental laws in India** as well as for bringing them in line with the current requirements.
- Committee had submitted report on November 18, 2014. Committee recorded that, India had a strong environmental policy and legislative framework however, it has been weakly implemented.
- Weak implementation has resulted in criticism of environmental governance by conservation experts and the judiciary.

### Indian Environment Service

- Committee had recommended setting up an Indian Environment Service, as an all-India Service. It can be created on the basis of qualifications and other **details prescribed by MoEF&CC or DoPT or UPSC**. The committee also proposed for creation of necessary institutional framework for this purpose.
- Currently, officers from all India civil services, **conducted by UPSC, deals with environment clearances and policies**.

### All India Services (AIS):

- **About:** The All India Services (AIS) comprises the three civil services of India:
  - **Indian Administrative Service (IAS);**
  - **Indian Police Service (IPS); and**
  - **Indian Forest Service (IFoS).**
- **Federal Nature of AIS Officers:** AIS officers are **recruited by the Union Government** (by UPSC) and their

services are allotted under various State Cadres.

- Hence, they have the **accountability to serve both under the State and the Centre**. However, the **Cadre Controlling Authority** of AIS is the Union Government.
- The **DoPT** is the cadre controlling authority of IAS officers. Cadre controlling authority for deputation of **Indian Police Service and Indian Forest Service Officers (IFoS)** is the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the **Environment Ministry** respectively.



The screenshot displays the YouTube channel for Success Mantra Digital. The channel's banner image shows a group of people, likely the institute's staff and students, standing in front of a backdrop that reads 'ACADEMIA - 2018'. Below the banner, the channel name 'Success Mantra Digital - Leading Institute in Test Preparation' is visible, along with a 'SUBSCRIBED' button and a notification bell icon. The channel's navigation tabs include HOME, VIDEOS, PLAYLISTS, COMMUNITY, CHANNELS, and ABOUT. The 'VIDEOS' tab is selected, showing a grid of video uploads. The videos include 'AILET 2021 Paper Analysis | Success Mantra Coaching', 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis (English Section) ...', 'Why You Should Join The Legal Profession |...', and 'NCHM JEE 2021 Exam Analysis | Success Mantra...'. Each video thumbnail features a person and text indicating the video's title, duration, and upload date.

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