TPS 19 Daily Current Affairs
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GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS
SHANTI SWARUP BHATNAGAR PRIZE

Why in news?
The Prime Minister will confer the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for 2016, 2017 and 2018 to the awardees.

About the prize
- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.
- The Prize is given each year to recognize outstanding Indian work in various disciplines of Science and Technology.
- It was first awarded in 1958.

Note: We attempt to cover new issues every day and drop the issues which are already covered. Therefore aspirants are advised to regularly follow NEO IAS daily current affairs material and video for a guaranteed success in Prelims 2019. NEO IAS daily current affairs stands out from other daily current affairs by its exclusive UPSC prelims focus on aspects that lie in and beyond current affairs.
Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology **up to the age of 45 years** is eligible for the prize. The prize is awarded on the basis of contributions made through work done in India **only during the five years preceding the year of the prize**.

**About CSIR**
- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** is an autonomous body which is the largest research and development organisation in India.
- Established in 1942 (**before independence**).
- It is mainly funded by **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- It is an autonomous body registered under **Societies Registration Act, 1860**.
- CSIR has a network of 38 national laboratories.
- Areas of research: Radio and space physics, oceanography, geophysics, chemicals, drugs, genomics, biotechnology and nanotechnology to mining, aeronautics, instrumentation, environmental engineering and IT.
- The **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** is a prestigious Prize awarded by CSIR to scientists under **45 (age)**.

**INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE DICTIONARY**

**Why in news?**

**About the news**
- The first edition of the dictionary with 3000 words was launched on 23rd March 2018.
- The second edition of dictionary includes total 6000 words under the categories of academic, legal, medical, technical and everyday terms.

**About the dictionary**
- Indian Sign Language Dictionary is a **video subtitled Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 6000 words**.
- The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (**ISLR&TC**) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (**DEPwD**), **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment**.
- Its aim is to give Deaf people the constitutional right to speech and opportunity of freedom of expression and also bringing them into the main stream of the society.
- As per the census 2011, there are around 5 million Deaf people and 2 million with speech disability in India.
- ISL dictionary consists of 3000 words of various categories.
- For example legal terms, medical terms, academic terms, technical terms and daily use words.
- The videos are subtitled within the dictionary.
- It will translate Indian sign language into **English and Hindi**.
**SHREYAS**

**Why in news?**
The *Minister for Human Resources Development* launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS).

**About the scheme**
- The program aims to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing ‘on the job work exposure’ and earning of stipend.
- It provides industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- It is a programme conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical, with a view to introduce employable skills into their learning, promote apprenticeship as integral to education.
- It also amalgamate employment facilitating efforts of the Government into the education system so that clear pathways towards employment opportunities are available to students during and after their graduation.
- SHREYAS programme basket comprises the initiatives of three Central Ministries, namely the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Labour & Employment viz the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (*NAPS*), the National Career Service (*NCS*) and introduction of BA/BSc/BCom (Professional) courses in the higher educational institutions.

**About National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme**
- National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (*NAPS*) is a scheme of Government of India to promote apprenticeship.
- It was launched on **19th August 2016**.

**Components of NAPS**
- The scheme has the following two components:
  1. Reimbursement of 25% of prescribed stipend subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- per month per apprentice by the Government of India to all employers who engage apprentices.
  2. Reimbursement of cost of basic training (upto a limit of Rs. 7500/- for a maximum of 500 hours/3 months) by the Government of India to Basic Training Providers (BTPs) in respect of apprentices who come directly for apprenticeship training without any formal training.

**About National Career Service**
- National Career Service is a Mission Mode Project launched by the Prime Minister on 20th July, 2015.
- The project is being implemented by the *Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment*.
- National Career Service (*NCS*) is a one-stop solution that provides a wide array of employment and career related services to the citizens of India.
- It works towards bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance, agencies providing training and career counselling.
GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

YUVA SAHAKAR SCHEME AND NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Why in news?
National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was applauded for its role in promoting cooperative development including its Yuva Sahakar Scheme at 84th General Council meeting of NCDC. The NCDC is organizing a first of its kind ‘India International Cooperative Trade Fair’ in October, 2019 in New Delhi.

About Yuva Sahakar – Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme
✓ It is a scheme aimed at attracting youth to cooperative business ventures and to encourage such cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.
✓ The scheme was created by the NCDC and is linked to the 1000 crore ‘Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)’.
✓ The scheme provides cheaper loans for initiating startups in the cooperative sectors.

Ministry
✓ It is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Eligibility
✓ All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year.

Benefits
✓ Up to 80% of the project cost would be funded for special categories such as women or Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or People with Disabilities.
✓ NCDC provides 70% of the total cost of the project for others who do not come under the special class.
✓ The scheme proposes 2% less than the applicable rate of interest that is generally levied on term loans for projects that cost up to Rs. 3 Crore.
✓ It also includes a 2 year moratorium on payment of principal.

About National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
✓ The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established in 1963 as a statutory Corporation by an Act of Parliament for the development of agriculture and rural sector.
✓ It is under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
✓ It is headquartered in New Delhi.

ENVIRONMENT

INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS RELATED TO FOREST RIGHTS ACT

Why in news?
The Centre filed application urging the Supreme Court to modify its order directing the eviction of thousands of Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other traditional forest dwellers whose claims for forest land rights have been rejected under the Forest Rights Act of 2006. The centre submitted that the scheme of the Forest Rights Act, is in tune with several International covenants.
About Forest Rights Act 2006

✓ The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is called as Forest Rights Act.

✓ Forest Rights granted under the Act are
  
  - **Title rights** - i.e. ownership - to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers as on 2005, subject to a maximum of 4 hectares; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family. No new lands are granted after this.
  
  - **Use rights** - to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc
  
  - **Relief and development rights** - to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection
  
  - **Forest management rights** - to protect forests and wildlife

✓ Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal ministry in implementing the act.

✓ Gram Sabha is the authority in deciding the forest rights.

### International Covenants

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<th>Objective</th>
<th>India’s status</th>
<th>Features</th>
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| UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights      | Recognises the equal rights of the human family                           | Signatory to the convention     | ✓ Adopted by UNGA in 1948 in Paris  
✓ The Declaration consists of 30 articles affirming an individual's rights  
✓ It is not legally binding itself |
| UN Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Populations | Seeks to protect ownership rights of populations over lands they traditionally occupy | Ratified the convention         | ✓ An International Labour Organization Convention.  
✓ It is a binding convention established in 1989. |
| UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous People | Mandates to protect the rights of indigenous people to lands, territories and resources which they traditionally own, occupy and use | Signatory to the convention     | ✓ Adopted by UNGA in 2007.  
✓ It sets an important standard for the treatment of indigenous people.  
✓ Not a legally binding instrument under international law. |
| UN Convention on Biological Diversity          | Advocates preservation of indigenous knowledge and practices             | Party to the convention         | ✓ A multilateral treaty.  
✓ Three main goals:  
  ✓ The conservation of biodiversity.  
  ✓ The sustainable use of its components.  
  ✓ The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. |
| Rio Declaration on Environment and Development | Proclaims indigenous people have a vital role in environmental management | India is a party                | ✓ It was the outcome of 1992 United Nations "Conference on Environment and Development" (Earth Summit) |

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### PARKINSON’S DISEASE

**Why in news?**

An experimental drug was found promising for restoring damaged brain cells in Parkinson’s patients, though clinical trials showed no proof of halting or slowing the disease.

**About the news**

✓ The trial involved delivery of a protein therapy directly into the brains of Parkinson’s patients.
Some brain scans revealed “extremely promising” effects on damaged neurons of those who received the treatment.

**About Parkinson’s disease**

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a long-term degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that mainly affects the motor system.

**Symptoms**

- The symptoms generally come on slowly over time.
- Early in the disease, the most obvious are shaking, rigidity, slowness of movement, and difficulty with walking along with thinking and behavioral problems.
- Dementia becomes common in the advanced stages of the disease. Depression and anxiety are also common.
- The main motor symptoms are collectively called “parkinsonism”, or a “parkinsonian syndrome”.

**Causes**

- The cause of Parkinson's disease is generally unknown, but believed to involve both genetic and environmental factors.
- Those with a family member affected are more likely to get the disease themselves.
- There is an increased risk in people exposed to certain pesticides and among those who have had prior head injuries.
- There is a reduced risk in tobacco smokers and those who drink coffee or tea.
- The motor symptoms of the disease result from the death of cells in a region of the midbrain.

**Cure**

- There is no cure for Parkinson's disease, with treatment directed at improving symptoms.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULES**

**AVIATION CONCLAVE 2019**

- The Aviation Conclave 2019 was inaugurated which would bring together industry leaders, government and regulators of the aviation sector.
- The theme of the conclave was “Flying for All”.

**INCLUSIVE INTERNET INDEX**

- India has been ranked 47th out of 100 countries in the overall “Inclusive Internet Index 2019”.
- The ‘Inclusive Internet’ score was based on the scores of availability, affordability, relevance and readiness categories and is commissioned by Facebook and conducted by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

**MAP AIDED PROGRAMME**

**DIEGO GARCÍA**

- Diego García is a CORAL atoll
- in the central Indian Ocean,
- largest of 60 small islands comprising the Chagos Archipelago.
PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS REVISION SERIES (PQRS)-(2011)

1. India has experienced persistent and high food inflation in the recent past. What could be the reasons?
   1. Due to a gradual switch over to the cultivation of commercial crops, the area under the cultivation of food grains has steadily decreased in the last five years by about 30%.
   2. As a consequence of increasing incomes, the consumption patterns of the people have undergone a significant change.
   3. The food supply chain has structural constraints.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only  (b) 2 and 3 only  (c) 1 and 3 only  (d) 1, 2 and 3