



# CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTHLY

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A note from Smart Abhyas



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# Index

## Polity and Social Issues

1. Strategic Partnership model finally takes effect.....	01
2. India has 31% of the world's poor children say report.....	01
3. Data protection law in making.....	02
4. New labour survey every quarter.....	03
5. India frames a new law for Antarctica.....	04
6. Central vigilance commission (CVC) can now look into corruption in Private sector banks.....	05
7. Government unveils new hydrocarbon policy.....	07
8. India ratifies two important conventions of the ILO.....	09
9. POSCO e-box for reporting Cyber-crimes against children.....	10
10. 'City livability Index' launched.....	11

## Geography, Ecology & Biodiversity

1. Orang tiger reserve: Small but crucial.....	12
2. India's biodiversity up by 499 species.....	13
3. Weaker El Nino according to Indian Meteorological Department.....	14
4. How the monsoon affects the Indian economy.....	14
5. Climate change may alter rainfall in the tropics.....	15
6. New biodiversity hotspots in Goa.....	16
7. Karnataka: Tiger State of India.....	17
8. Western Ghats home to 'burrowing frogs'.....	19

9. India’s atmosphere polluted to a dangerous level.....	20
10. USA pulls out of Paris Climate Agreement.....	21

## Economy

1. Five Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements signed by Central Board of Direct Taxes.....	24
2. Cabinet approves strategic disinvestment of Air India.....	25
3. India at 60th place on Global Innovation Index (GII).....	27
4. Defence shipping now open to all.....	28
5. Goods and Services Tax (GST): Everything you need to know.....	29

## Science and technology

1. ISRO successfully fires heaviest launch vehicle.....	32
2. Child friendly HIV drug.....	33
3. Navigation Indian Constellation (NavIC) and its troubles .....	35
4. ISRO looking at semi-cryogenic engines for rockets .....	36
5. Cartosat-2 launched by PSLV.....	36
6. World Health Organisation (WHO) pushes for multi disease testing device.....	37

## Government Schemes and Initiatives

1. Soil Health card.....	40
2. National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).....	40

3. What India is doing to boost the white revolution?.....	41
4. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) can now be subscribed digitally.....	42
5. Startup India Virtual Hub launched.....	43
6. Weather Portal for Power Sector launched.....	44
7. MERIT (Merit Order Dispatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency) portal launched.....	45
8. National Biopharma Mission: All you need to know.....	46
9. Web application for Legal Services to Prisoners.....	47

## International relations

1. India looking forward to becoming a full time member of SCO.....	49
2. BRICS media to get \$ 1 million funding.....	50
3. BIO International Convention 2017.....	52

## Defence and Internal Security

1. Nuclear capable Prithvi II test fired.....	54
2. Anti-Tank missile successfully tested.....	54

## Point Blank (facts for prelims)

1. NASA's first mission to the sun.....	55
2. India, Russia ink nuclear plant pact.....	55
3. Global Peace Index 2017.....	55
4. Varanasi to get freight village.....	55
5. Committee on corporate governance.....	56

6. NASA to launch neutron star mission.....	56
7. IIT-Delhi best ranked Indian institution.....	56
8. ‘Selfie with Daughter’ Mobile App.....	57
9. SATH program launched by NITI Aayog.....	57
10. First underwater metro in India.....	57
11. India’s first canal top solar PV system.....	58
12. AUSINDEX-17 Bilateral Maritime Exercise.....	58
13. AIIB approves 3 new members.....	58
14. ‘Start Up’ definition amended.....	59
15. Foreign Investment Promotion Board abolished.....	59
16. Cyclones at the poles of Jupiter.....	59
17. Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers.....	60
18. Swiss and India sign information sharing pact.....	60

# Polity and Social Issues

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## 1. Strategic Partnership model finally takes effect

What is the issue?

- The Strategic Partnership Policy has finally come into effect.

What does the policy intend to do?

- Promote Indian Private Sector participation in defence manufacturing through initiatives like Make in India.

About the policy:

- The policy acknowledges that the Indian private sector currently has “limited experience in defence manufacturing and even lesser in respect of final integration” of complex defence systems and sub-systems
- Besides any experience in defence manufacturing, potential SPs will be identified primarily based on their experience and competence in integration of multi-disciplinary functional system of systems, engineering and manufacturing.
- In a bid to avoid cancellation of deals in case of a single vendor situation, the policy states that “even if only one Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) submits a proposal in any given segment, the process of technical evaluation will be completed

Significance of this policy:

- The SP is expected to play the role of a system integrator by building an extensive ecosystem comprising development partners, specialized vendors and suppliers

## 2. India has 31% of the world's poor children says report

What is the issue?

- Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative has pointed out that 31% of the world's ‘multidimensionally poor’ live in India in Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.

**Highlights of the report:**

- 31% of the 689 million poor children live in India, followed by Nigeria (8%), Ethiopia (7%) and Pakistan (6%)
- In terms of the number of such multidimensionally poor children as a proportion of the total population, India stood 37th among 103 countries.
- Of the 145 crore people (from the 103 countries) who are multidimensionally poor, 48% are children. That is a total of 68.9 crore children.

**Who is a ‘multidimensionally poor’ child?**

- A “multidimensionally poor” child lacks at least a third of ten indicators, grouped into three dimensions of poverty: health, education and standard of living.

**About the report:**

- The report consists of 10 indicators grouped into 3 categories.
- The health dimension comprises of indicators such as nutrition, child mortality, and education
- Under standard of living are indicators such as access to cooking fuel, improved sanitation, safe drinking water and electricity.

**3. Data protection law in the making****What is the issue?**

- Government is thinking over introducing a new data protection law to protect personal information of citizens as well as creating a framework to enable safe and effective public data mining.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEIT) is working on a new data protection law

### Why this is important at this point in time?

- The move assumes significance amid the debate over security of individuals' private data, including Aadhaar-linked biometrics, and the rising number of cyber-crimes in the country.
- A lot of benefits can be derived from the data that is publicly available, by using technology and big data analytics.
- India has ratified the UN's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which contains an obligation to protect privacy.

### Present situation:

- There is a data protection law in India in the form of the Reasonable Security Guidelines under Section 43A of the Information Technology Act. However, it is a toothless law and is never used.
- Some redress for misuse of personal data by commercial entities is also available under the Consumer Protection Act enacted in 2015. As per the Act, the disclosure of personal information given in confidence is an unfair trade practice.

## 4. New labour survey every quarter

### What is the issue?

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has started a Periodic Labour Force Survey, which will provide quarterly labour and employment data for urban India and annual data for rural India.

### How is the new survey different from the old format?

- The new survey system will provide quarterly labour and employment data while the old survey provided the same data once in 5 years.

### About the survey:

- The data will be collected from large and small enterprises and so that informal sector activity is also captured.

- Will also incorporate a Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method, with field operators using tablets to enter the data. This would generate more accurate and timely information

### 5. India frames a new 'law' for Antarctica

#### What is the issue?

- India is drafting a dedicated Antarctica policy and a law keeping in mind a more populous future for the continent wherein the continent may see more tourists, over-exploited fisheries, disputes and crime.
- A committee that includes Biman Patel, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat National Law University, has been asked to draft the new 'Antarctica law.'

#### India and Antarctica:

- India, being among the countries that have acceded to the Antarctica Treaty, is expected to have a clear policy on the consequences of its activities in the region.
- The treaty is framed to ensure 'in the interests of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord'.
- To this end it prohibits military activity, except in support of science; prohibits nuclear explosions and the disposal of nuclear waste; promotes scientific research and the exchange of data; and holds all territorial claims in abeyance.

#### India's base in Antarctica:

- Dakshin Gangotri, the first Indian base established in 1984, has weakened and become just a supply base.
- The government is rebuilding its station, Maitri, to make it bigger and last for at least 30 years.