

SMART ABHYAS

Current Affairs Monthly

July 2018

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3D X-rays

Pulikali : India's diminishing street art form

Harrier birds no longer coming to India

Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018




INCLUDES


All India Radio,


CSE relevant discussions and topics from Rajya Sabha TV and Lok Sabha TV

Daily Quiz July 2018

Climate change slowly diminishing the grassland habitat of the **Nilgiri Tahr** and more...

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Smart Abhyas

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A note from Smart Abhyas



Smart Abhyas

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It would mean the world to us if you think that the content we are providing is worthwhile and spread the word to fellow aspirants out there.

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High powered committee recommendations on auctioning coal blocks

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2. ISRO's 'mission abort' a success

3. Threat to newborns : Neonatal sepsis

4. Ghost' particle origin revealed

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6. BrahMos : India's all weather missile

7. Vikas engine upgraded : A shot in the arm for ISRO's workhorses

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12. 10th BRICS Summit
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19. Centre for Climate Change
20. Meghalayan Age: Latest Era in Earth's History
21. Kerala tops in governance, says report
22. Iran overtakes Saudi Arabia in oil supply to India
23. Panel to suggest steps to check lynchings
24. Two Indians win Ramon Magsaysay award 2018
25. West Bengal to be renamed 'Bangla'
26. Karnataka #1 in Renewable Energy
27. International Tiger Day 2018
28. New cell shape

Point Blank (Facts for prelims)

1. Panel to upgrade norms for data collection
2. Asian Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
3. Bengaluru to get India's first e-waste plant
4. India's first global mobility summit
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6. Sports Authority of India's now 'Sports india'
7. UNESCO to set up Design University for Gaming
8. Reserve Bank of India grants licence to Bank of China
9. New chairperson of NGT
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11. President nominates 4 members to Rajya Sabha
12. First-ever Global Compact for Migration
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Polity and Social Issues

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3. Indian Medicine Industry
4. Swachh Survekshan Grameen
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12. Simultaneous interpretation of 8th schedule languages in Rajya Sabha
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14. Motor Vehicles (amendment) Bill, 2017
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Geography, Ecology and Biodiversity

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2. Variety of Mangoes
3. National Moth Week

Economy

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3. Minimum Support Bonanza for farmers

Science and Technology

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6. Dry flower technology
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9. New Moons of Jupiter
10. Stem Cell therapy for Rejuvenation of Cornea
11. Supernova 2018cow
12. Peacock Genome decoded
13. Pre Exposure Prophylaxis
14. Two new species of Ginger
15. Antibiotic resistant bacteria in Chicken
16. CUSAT ST Radar Facility at Kochi

17. Permissible fuels in NCT
18. Useful Orange Peel
19. Vikas Engine
20. Potato Bags
21. Rafale: India's new weapon
22. Blood Moon:
23. Fascinating world of insects

International Relations, Summits and Meetings

1. SAARC Development Fund
2. History of Bilateral relations between India and South Korea
3. World Trade Organisation
4. 10th BRICS Summit
5. CAASTA Waiver for India?

Miscellaneous

1. Swami Vivekananda
2. Nelson Mandela
3. Kargil Vijay Diwas

All India Radio (Spotlight Analysis)

A discussion on

1. GST
2. Achievements of NITI Aayog
3. Global Oil crisis
4. 'Rise in MSP and its impact'
5. India-Bhutan bilateral relations
6. 'India – South Korea bilateral relations'
7. Self Help Groups and Woman Empowerment
8. Swachh Survekshan Grameen
9. 6th Ministerial level talks between India and Bangladesh
10. New India Conclave
11. Monsoon session of Parliament
12. No-Confidence Motion
13. GST Council
14. Prime Minister visit to Africa
15. Steps to curb mob lynching
15. BRICS Summit 2018

Polity and Social Issues

Delhi: The demand for Statehood and its origin

What was Delhi's status before independence ?

- Before India gained independence, Delhi was part of the Punjab province till it was made the capital in 1911 and became a chief commissioner's province.
- The Chief Commissioner was empowered to determine the application of laws by issuing appropriate notification in the Gazette of India.
- The Pattabhi Sitaramiyya Committee set up in 1947 recommended that Delhi along with Coorg and Ajmer-Merwara will function under an LG appointed by the President. The LG would act on the advise of the Centre.

How did Delhi come into being after independence ?

- Post Independence, the Constitution recognised three types of states- A, B and C. Delhi was type C and was under the chief commissioner.
- The Government of Part C States Act, 1951, saw Delhi's legislative assembly being formed in 1952.
- The chief minister, however, did not have power over the police, matters related to land and building, sanitation and municipal authorities.
- The assembly and Chief Minister's post were scrapped with the enactment of the State Reorganisation Act, 1956, which categorised Indian states as "States and Union Territories" only.
- While states were governed by a council of ministers appointed through elected representatives from the Legislative assemblies, Delhi like other union territories now had an "administrator" appointed by the President.

What is Article 239AA ?

- Following the recommendations of the committee, Delhi was constitutionally given the title of "National Capital Territory of Delhi" that would be administered by an LG.

- The LG was to be appointed by the President and a Legislative Assembly was to be constituted.

- A council of Ministers to advise the LG were also formed.

- Only in certain cases in relation to subjects of land, police, and public order, the the LG was not bound to follow the advice of the council.

- Article 239AA(4) provided a mechanism for referring a matter to the President in case of a difference of opinion between the LG and council.

Delhi's demand for Statehood : The first time

- The demand for statehood came up as a result of the report of the Committee on Reorganisation of Delhi Set-Up or the Balakrishnan committee in 1987.

- The committee recommended setting up a legislative system and examined overlapping of authorities in matters of municipal governance.

- It agreed to give the national capital a special status and the union territory to have a legislative assembly that would be given powers to form laws on matters under the state list with exception to matters related to land, police, and public order.

Question related to Delhi:

Consider the following statements with reference to Delhi

1. It is spread across the west banks of river Yamuna
2. Delhi was made the Capital of India in 1911 by the British
3. New Delhi is the second largest city in India in terms of population

Which of the above mentioned statements are true ?

- a) 1 only b) 2 and 3
c) 3 only d) All of the above

Solution: d

Military infrastructure can now be setup in CRZ-I

What is the issue ?

- The Union Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change has made changes to Coastal Regulation Zone notification 2011 allowing for military infrastructure to be setup in the highly regulated CRZ-I areas.

Which areas comprise CRZ-I ?

- CRZ-I comprises areas that are ecologically sensitive such as mangroves, corals and coral reefs, sand dunes, salt marshes, national parks, mudflats that are biologically active, horse shoe crab habitat, turtle nesting grounds, sea grass beds, nesting ground of birds and structures of archaeological importance.

- The area between high tide line and low tide line falls in this category.

How will this benefit the armed forces ?

- This would particularly help the navy and Coast Guard spruce up their coastal infrastructure and in the islands as India aims a bigger maritime role in the Indian Ocean.
- This includes expanding a 3,500 ft runway to a 10,000 ft to operate fighter aircraft from Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- Another project that may benefit from the new decision is Project Varsha — India's nuclear submarine pen being created on the east coast near Visakhapatnam.
- Other projects to benefit from the green ministry's decision are navy's new VLF station, expansion of Karwar base at Kamorta (Nicobar), Diglipur and Campbell Bay (Andaman).

An app to report electoral malpractice

What is the issue ?

- The Election Commission has launched an Android based mobile application named "cVigil" for citizens to share proof of malpractices by political parties, their candidates and activists when the Model Code of Conduct is in force.

More about the cVigil app :

- The mobile application also facilitates sharing of geotagged photographic and video evidence without disclosing the identity of the sender.
- The uploaded information will be transmitted to the control room, and from there the field units or flying squads, mapped on a Geographic Information System, will be immediately alerted for further action.
- In case the complainant does not opt for anonymity, the person will also receive an action taken report within about 100 minutes.

Lieutenant Governor is bound by the 'aid and advise' of the Delhi government rules Supreme Court

What is the issue ?

- A 2016 verdict of the Delhi High Court, which had declared that the Lieutenant Governor has "complete control of all matters regarding the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and nothing will happen without the concurrence of the LG" had been appealed against in the Supreme Court.

What has the Supreme Court said ?

- Supreme Court has said that "aid and advice" concept cannot apply to the exercise of any judicial or quasi-judicial functions by the Lieutenant Governor. The LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Delhi Cabinet only in matters where the Assembly has the powers to make laws.
- In case of difference of opinion, the LG should straight-away refer the dispute to the President for a final decision without sitting over it or stultifying the governance in the National Capital.
- The Lieutenant Governor has not been entrusted with any independent decision making power. He has to either act on the 'aid and advice' of the Council of Ministers or he is bound to implement the decision taken by the President on a reference being made by him.

- Governments are in their respective pursuits of development. The Union government and the State governments should endeavour to address the common problems with the intention of arriving at a solution by showing statesmanship, combined action and sincere cooperation.

- In collaborative federalism, the Union and the State governments should express their readiness to achieve the common objective and work together for it.

Balakrishnan Report 1987 : What you need to know

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday followed the 1987 Balakrishnan report to conclude that Delhi is not a State.
- The report envisaged that Delhi could not have a situation in which the national capital had “two governments run by different political parties. Such conflicts may, at times, prejudice the national interest.”
- “Delhi as the national capital belongs to the nation as a whole.” The report foresaw that if Delhi became a full-fledged State, there would be a constitutional division of sovereign, legislative and executive powers between the Union and the State of Delhi.
- Parliament would have limited legislative access and that too only in special and emergency situations. The Union would be unable to discharge its “special responsibilities in relation to the national capital as well as to the nation itself”.
- The report said the control of the Union over Delhi was vital in the national interest. It dealt extensively with the modifications in the aid and advice given by the Council of Ministers to the LG as the Administrator of Delhi.
- The report said the LG’s role was not that of a Constitutional figurehead, though the ultimate responsibility for good administration of Delhi was vested in the President acting through the Administrator. However, the Administrator had to take a somewhat more active part in the administration than the Governor of a State.
- The report foresaw that differences would eventually emerge between the Administrator and the elected government. The report had recommended that the “best way” of doing this is to let the LG refer such differences of opinion to the President for a final decision.

National Capital Region

- NCR encompasses entire NCT of Delhi and several districts surrounding it from the states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan
- There are a total of 24 districts in the NCR (outside Delhi NCT)
- Prominent cities of NCR include Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Noida and Meerut

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Cabinet approves accession to WIPO Copyright Treaty, 1996 and WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty, 1996

What is the issue ?

- The Union Cabinet has approved the accession to the WIPO Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performers and Phonograms Treaty which extends coverage of copyright to the internet and digital environment.
- The approval is a step towards the objective laid in the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy adopted by the Government on 12th May 2016 which aims to get value for IPRs through commercialization by providing guidance and support to IPR owners about commercial opportunities of e-commerce through Internet and mobile platforms.

Why is this important ?

Meeting the demand of the copyright industries, these treaties will help India:

- To enable creative right-holders enjoy the fruit of their labour, through international copyright system that can be used to secure a return on the investment made in producing and distributing creative works;
- To facilitate international protection of domestic rights holder by providing them level-playing field in other countries as India already extends protection to foreign works through the International Copyright order and these treaties will enable Indian right holders to get reciprocal protection abroad;
- To instil confidence and distribute creative works in digital environment with return on investment; and
- To spur business growth and contribute to the development of a vibrant creative economy and cultural landscape.

Background to the issue : Copyright Act, 1957:

- After the administration of Copyright Act 1957 was transferred to DIPP in March 2016, a study was initiated to examine compatibility of Copyright Act 1957 with WCT and WPPT. Also a joint study was undertaken with WIPO.