

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY****Manipur People's Protection Bill**

Manipur state government has decided to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2018, if there is no clause to protect the indigenous peoples of the North East (NE) region in general, and Manipur in particular.

The state has submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Rajnath Singh to give President's assent to the Manipur Peoples (Protection) Bill, 2018. It will protect the interests of people of the State.

**Manipur People's Protection Bill, 2018:**

- It seeks to regulate the entry and exit of "outsiders" on the lines of the British-era inner-line permit system prevalent in three other north-eastern states — Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- The bill sets 1951 as the base year to identify locals and prevent an influx of outsiders.

**Who are Manipuris and non- Manipuris?**

- According to the bill, Manipur people include Meitis, the Pangal Muslims, scheduled tribes as listed under the Constitution in terms of Manipur and all those citizens of India who have been living in Manipur before 1951.
- The rest have been put in the category of non-Manipuris and will have to register themselves within one month of the notification of the law. They will be issued a pass extendable up to six months. While those who have trade licences can get a pass extendable up to five years, which will have to be renewed every year. Any outsider visiting Manipur would need a pass.

**Rationale behind the Bill:**

- The influx of foreign tourists has increased exponentially in Manipur, thus creating a demographic imbalance in the region. If this was not enough, illegal immigration from Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar has also contributed to the crisis. This has created fear among the locals over employment and availability of resources.
- At a time where there already exists stiff competition between the locals and outsiders over jobs, the outsiders mostly settle for low paid work. Hence, locals feel ILP fails to safeguard the interests of the indigenous people.

**Inner Line Permit:**

- The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to grant inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indians residing outside those states to obtain permission prior to entering the protected areas.
- Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. The document has been issued under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 and the conditions and restrictions vary from state to state.
- It can be issued for travel purposes solely. Visitors are not allowed to purchase property in these regions. However, there might be a different set of rules for long term visitors, though they are not valid for central government employees and security forces.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS****World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019**

Union Ministry for AYUSH will inaugurate the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 on the 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medical Products; Advancing global collaboration'.

The organizers of the forum are the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, under the Ministry of AYUSH.

International drug regulators dealing with homeopathic/traditional medicines from various countries are expected to participate.

**Aims and Objectives**

- The regulation of homeopathic medicinal products is highly variable worldwide, ranging at a national level from highly advanced to none whatsoever.
- There is a tension between different regulatory needs: on the one hand there is a need for standardization, harmonization and reducing complexity;

- On the other hand there is need for a pluralistic regulatory system, which respects the specific characteristics of homeopathy as a holistic, patient-centred medical system.
- The forum will explore and illustrate the potential benefits and pitfalls of bi-lateral/multilateral collaboration and advance global cooperation on a synergistic basis.

### **International Solar Alliance**

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is going to propose a new bank exclusively for financing energy access to billions concentrating on the fact that the existing banks do not focus on universal energy access—those still deprived are the poorest of the poor; thus, out of the ambit of these banks. Therefore, we need special finance mechanism which can target these people. The bank is still at the ideation stage:

- ISA has asked the Asian Development Bank to prepare a concept note.
- A public-private partnership is being thought of for the proposed, which will work for 1.2 billion people who lack access to energy as well as the 2.4 billion who lack access to clean energy.

### **ISA:**

- The Paris Climate Declaration 2015 established ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries.
- Objectives: The ISA's major objectives include global deployment of over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over US\$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.
- As an action-oriented organisation, the ISA brings together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate global demand, thereby reducing prices through bulk purchase, facilitating the deployment of existing solar technologies at scale, and promoting collaborative solar R&D and capacity building.
- When the ISA Framework Agreement entered into force on December 6th, 2017, ISA formally became a de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization, headquartered at Gurugram, India.

### **Aadhaar as travel documents to visit Nepal, Bhutan:**

Aadhaar cards are now valid travel documents for Indians under 15 and over 65 travelling to Nepal and Bhutan. Indians other than those in the two age brackets will not be able to use Aadhaar to travel to the two neighbouring countries, for which no visas are needed.

**Background:** Indian citizens going to Nepal and Bhutan have to have a valid passport, identity card issued by the Indian government or the Election Commission, they do not need a visa. Earlier, persons under the age of 65 and below 15 years could show their PAN card, driving license, Central Government Health Service (CGHS) card or ration card to prove their identity for the visit of these two countries. The Aadhaar card has now been added to this list.

### **World Capital of Architecture**

The UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has named the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro as the World Capital of Architecture for 2020.

- Rio as one of the oldest cities in Brazil, has a mix of modern and colonial architecture, with world-renowned sites.
- Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a programme launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) in November 2018.
- Rio houses some world-renowned sites like the statue of Christ the Redeemer and contemporary constructions like the Museum of Tomorrow.
- The city is also home to works of renowned architects such as Oscar Niemeyer, who also designed the capital city of Brasilia.

## **GOVERNANCE- SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC**

### **Appointment of Chief Information Commissioner**

RTI activists have termed the appointment of former Law Secretary Suresh Chandra as a Central Information Commissioner on January 1 an "arbitrary process" as he had not applied for the position.

DoPT had informed the Supreme Court that the search committee was to shortlist candidates "out of the applications received." However, later it was found that shortlisting had been done outside

the list of applicants, in violation of procedure laid out by the department in their own affidavit to the Supreme Court.

However, the department defends its move by saying that the search committee is not restricted to applicants, but to deserving candidates.

CIC:

- Section 12(3) of the RTI Act 2005 provides the CIC will be appointed by a committee comprising of the Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee; The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; and A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- Section 12(5) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
- Section 12(6) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.
- Section 13 of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.
- Section 13(5)(a) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner.

## **INDIAN ECONOMY**

### **Microsoft launches e-platform under Project ReWeave to help Handloom weavers**

Microsoft India launched a new e-commerce platform 're-weave.in' under project ReWeave to aid handloom weavers.

The e-commerce platform would provide the following benefits:

- The e-commerce platform would connect artisans to the buyers directly enabling them to expand to newer customers and markets.
- Provide a platform to showcase signature collections created by the weaver communities, showcase traditional designs and products created from natural dyes to a broad set of customers.
- The e-commerce platform would aid in weavers in increasing their income and earning a sustainable livelihood while also reviving traditional forgotten Indian art.

### **Project ReWeave**

Project ReWeave was initiated by Microsoft India (R&D) Pvt. Limited in 2016 as part of its Philanthropies efforts, with the aim to revive the handloom weaving ecosystem in India. Under the initiative, Microsoft is working closely with NGO partner, Chaitanya Bharathi to provide infrastructure, financing and marketing support to help weaver families keep their weaving traditions alive by sustaining livelihoods.

## **ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**

### **Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW)**

An alliance of global companies has launched a new organisation- AEPW- to help eliminate plastic waste, especially in the ocean.

### **About the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW):**

- The Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), comprising about 30 companies, pledged over \$1 billion to eliminate plastic waste across the world. They aim to invest \$1.5 billion over the next five years for the same.
- The alliance is designed as a non-profit organization. It includes companies from across North and South America, Europe, Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa as well as the Middle East are part of the Alliance.

- The aim is to develop solutions to mitigate plastic pollution and promote a circular economy by utilising used plastics.
- Member companies include those that make, use, sell, process, collect and recycle plastics, as well as chemical and plastic manufacturers, consumer goods companies, retailers, converters, and waste management companies, also called the plastics value chain. From India, Reliance Industries will advance efforts towards a sustainable future.

**Significance:** Plastic waste management is a complex and serious global challenge that calls for swift action and strong leadership. The issue of plastic waste is seen and felt all over the world. It must be addressed. This new alliance is the most comprehensive effort to date to end plastic waste in the environment.

#### **Small Woodbrow Butterfly:**

After a span of 120 long years, researchers in Sikkim have rediscovered the Small Woodbrow butterfly species from Bakhim in Khanchendzonga National Park.

#### **Key facts:**

- The Small Woodbrow butterfly, scientifically known as *Lethe nicetella* is named after its brown-coloured wings patched with white round spots.
- It is amongst the smallest members of the genus *Lethe*, with wings that are up to 50 millimeters long.
- The species is endemic to the eastern Himalayas and occurs in forests lying between elevations of 1,800-2,800 metres.
- Distribution: Across the world, species of *Lethe* are found in Sunda Islands, Japan, Siberia, Himalayas and peninsular India. Of the 41 species of *Lethe* that are found in India, 32 species are reported from Sikkim alone.

#### **Two new species of moss rose discovered in south India**

Two new species of moss rose discovered in south India named as *Portulaca badamica* and *Portulaca lakshminarasimhaniana*. *Portulaca badamica* is named after the site of its discovery that is, the Badami hills, while the second new species—*Portulaca lakshminarasimhaniana*—honours Pakshirajan Lakshminarasimhan, who is the head of the Botanical Survey of India, western regional circle in Pune, for his significant contribution to plant taxonomy.

**IUCN Status:** *Portulaca badamica*- data deficient category and *Portulaca lakshminarasimhaniana*-critically endangered.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Tamil Nadu Defense Industrial Corridor**

Defense Minister launched a series of projects in the defense Industrial corridor at Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu. Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Defense public sector units and private sector companies like TVS group announced investments worth of Rs. 3,123 crore.

- In the 2018 Budget, two Defense corridors were announced in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Tamil Nadu Defense Industrial Corridor, also called the Tamil Nadu Defense Production Quad, will include Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchi.
- These nodal cities have defense ecosystem in the form of OFBs, vendors working with Defense PSUs, and other allied industries.
- Development of these corridors will help in accelerated growth and regional industry agglomeration.
- It will also facilitate a well-planned and efficient industrial base which will lead to increased defense production in the country and the region.
- This will also help the industry to integrate with the global supply chain of defense manufacturing.