

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.****Ekalavya Model Residential Schools**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 462 Ekalavya Model Schools across the country in Tribal Dominated Areas.

About:

- Implementing ministry: Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Background: The scheme of EMRSs was introduced in the year 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas.
- Features:
- The schools would focus to provide quality upper primary, secondary and senior secondary level education to ST Students in these areas. Apart from school building including hostels and staff quarters, provision for a playground, students' computer lab, teacher resource room etc. are also included in the EMRSs.
- Revamp of scheme: In December 2018, Union Cabinet revamped the scheme with following features –
  - EMRSs will be setup in every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons. Thereby around 462 schools will be set up in addition to the 288 EMRSs already sanctioned.
- There will be an Autonomous Society under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs similar to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to run the EMRSs.

**Jan Soochna Portal-2019**

In a pioneering step, the first-ever public information portal was launched in Rajasthan.

About:

- The new web portal, named the Jan Soochna Portal-2019, would ensure compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act mandating the public authorities to disclose information in the public domain, so that the people need not file applications under the law to obtain information.
- The portal promises to provide information about government authorities and departments suo motu to the public in the true spirit of the Right To Information Act. It will initially give information pertaining to 13 departments.
- The Rajasthan State government collaborated with the civil society groups to develop the portal.
- The portal has brought yet another distinction to Rajasthan, where the RTI movement had started in 1990s.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS****Global Antimicrobial Resistance (Amr) Research And Development (R&D) Hub**

India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.

About:

- Background: The Global AMR R&D Hub was launched in May 2018 in the margins of the 71st session of the World Health Assembly, following a call from G20 Leaders in 2017.
- Function: The Global AMR R&D Hub supports global priority setting and decision-making on the allocation of resources for AMR R&D, potential for cross-sectoral collaboration and leveraging in AMR R&D.
- Secretariat: Berlin, Germany.
- Funding: It's operations are currently financed through grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).
- Membership: Inclusion of India has expanded collaboration in global AMR R&D to 16 countries, the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organisations (as observers).

**Pangong Tso lake**

Indian and Chinese Army soldiers were engaged in a face-off near the northern bank of Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh.

About Pangong Tso lake:

- Pangong Tso is a long narrow landlocked lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- The brackish water lake freezes over in winter and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- One-third of the lake which is around 45km is in Indian control while the rest of the 90 km is under Chinese control.

- The lake does not have major tactical significance. But it lies in the path of the Chushul approach, one of the main approaches that China can use for an offensive into Indian-held territory.

#### India-China Dispute:

- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) cuts through the lake but India and China do not agree on its exact location.
- In 1999, when the Army unit from the area was moved to Kargil for Operation Vijay, China took the opportunity to build 5 km of road inside Indian Territory along the lake's bank.
- Hence, most of the clashes between the two armies occur in the disputed portion of the lake.

### **INDIAN ECONOMY**

#### **Bulletproof Jackets**

India has begun exporting bulletproof jackets as per its own standards to over 100 countries including European nations.

#### About:

- A top BIS official said that India is the fourth country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on bulletproof jacket which provides 360-degree protection.
- In December 2018, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) framed a national standard for bulletproof jacket following a direction from the Prime Minister's Office and the Niti Aayog.
- Two PSUs Medani and Ordnance factory at Avadi, Chennai and private firms SNPP (Palwal), Starwire (Faridabad) in Haryana and MKU (Kanpur) in Uttar Pradesh are manufacturing bulletproof jackets as per the BIS norms.
- Tough quality norms are set to ensure jackets can be manufactured in various sizes to suite requirement of soldiers and provide 360-degree protection, including from AK-47 hard steel core bullets approaching at 700 metres per second.

#### **Small Finance Bank (SFB)**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released 'Draft Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector' for comments. (An 'on-tap' facility would mean the RBI will accept applications and grant license for banks throughout the year, at any time, subject to the fulfilment of the set conditions.)

#### Salient features of Draft Guidelines:

- Registration and licensing: The SFB shall be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. It will be governed by the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Status: The small finance banks will be given scheduled bank status once they commence their operations.
- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Existing NBFCs, micro finance institutions and local area banks in the private sector, which are controlled by residents, can opt for conversion into small finance banks.
  - Proposals from public sector entities and large industrial house/business groups, and autonomous boards/bodies will not be entertained.
- Capital requirement:
  - The minimum paid-up voting equity capital for small finance banks shall be Rs.200 crore, except for such small finance banks which are converted from UCBs.
  - An SFB shall be required to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 15 per cent of its risk weighted assets (RWA) on a continuous basis.
- Promoters' contribution: The promoters should hold a minimum of 40 per cent of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank, which would remain locked in for five years from the date of commencement of the bank's business.
- Listing of shares: After the SFB reaches the net worth of Rs 500 crore, listing will be mandatory within three years of reaching that net worth. Also, SFBs having net worth of below Rs 500 crore could also get their shares listed voluntarily, subject to fulfilment of the requirements of the capital markets regulator.
- Foreign shareholding: The foreign shareholding in the small finance bank would be as per the extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for private sector banks.

SFB A Small Finance Banks (SFB) is set up to undertake basic banking activities of acceptance of deposits and lending to unserved and underserved sections. The RBI had issued the guidelines for licensing of SFBs in the private sector in 2014. The process of licensing culminated in granting in-principle approval to 10 applicants and they have since established the banks.

**ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES****UN Convention to Combat Desertification: COP 14**

The 14th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended recently.

- This was the first time that India hosted an edition of the UNCCD COP.
- The theme of the Conference was 'Restore land, Sustain future'.
- India being the global host for COP 14 has taken over the COP Presidency from China for the next two years till 2021.
- India is among the select few countries to have hosted the COP of all three Rio conventions on climate change, biodiversity and land.

**Key Takeaways**

- **Delhi Declaration:** Commitment for a range of issues, including gender and health, ecosystem restoration, taking action on climate change, private sector engagement, Peace Forest Initiative and recovery of five million hectares of degraded land in India.
  - The country parties have agreed to make the Sustainable Development Goal target of achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030, a national target for action.
  - **Peace Forest Initiative:** It is an initiative of South Korea to use ecological restoration as a peace-building process. It aims at addressing the issue of land degradation in conflict-torn border areas and would go a long way in alleviating tensions and building trust between communities living there and between enemy countries in particular.
- **Drought Toolbox:** It is launched as a one-stop-shop for all actions on drought. It is a sort of knowledge bank which contains tools that strengthen the ability of countries to anticipate and prepare for drought effectively and mitigate their impacts as well as tools that enable communities to anticipate and find the land management tools that help them to build resilience to drought.
- **International coalition for action on Sand and Dust storms (SDS):** The coalition will develop an SDS source base map with the goal of improving monitoring and response to these storms. SDS affects approximately 77% of UNCCD country Parties or approximately 151 countries.
- **Initiative of Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S):** Launched by 14 African countries to address migration driven by land degradation. It aims at restoring land and creating green jobs for migrants and vulnerable groups.
- **Cooperation From Youth:** The global Youth Caucus on Desertification and Land convened its first official gathering in conjunction with the UNCCD COP14 to bring together youth advocates from different parts of the world, to build their capacity, share knowledge, build networks and to engage them meaningfully in the UNCCD processes.

**High-Level Segment Meeting of the COP14**

- The Prime Minister of India inaugurated and addressed the high-level segment meeting of the COP-14.
- India seeks to propose initiatives for greater South-South cooperation in addressing issues of climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.
- India would raise its ambition of the total area that would be restored from its land degradation status, from twenty-one million hectares to twenty-six million hectares between now and 2030.
- India has proposed to set up a global technical support institute for the member countries of the UNCCD for their capacity building and support regarding the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program.
- India called upon the leadership of UNCCD to conceive a global water action agenda which is central to the Land Degradation Neutrality strategy.
- India advocated on the need to eradicate the menace of single-use plastic.

**4P1000 Initiative; TICD**

On the sidelines of COP 14 of UNCCD, TRIFED and Union Tribal Ministry launched TICD (TRIFED's Initiative to Combat Desertification) under "The 4P1000 Initiative: The Tribal Perspective through Bamboonomics."

**TICD (TRIFED's Initiative to Combat Desertification):**

- They finalized TRIFED DELHI Declaration on "The 4P1000 Initiative: The Tribal Perspective through Bamboonomics."
- Under it, TRIFED will integrate its Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojna (PMVDY) with this new global environmental intervention termed as TICD (TRIFED's Initiative to Combat Desertification).

- TRIFED, by partnering with the German Cooperation (GIZ), will involve the tribal community for rehabilitating the degraded land while supplementing the income of tribal community.
- According to TRIFED, the 4P1000 Initiative with the tribal perspective through Bamboonomics is the best answer for combating desertification and rehabilitation of degraded wastelands.

#### The 4P1000 Initiative:

- The international initiative “4per1000”, launched by France in 2015 at the COP 21, consists of federating all voluntary stakeholders of the public and private sectors under the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Plan (LPAP).
- The aim of the initiative is to demonstrate that an annual growth rate of 0.4% in the soil carbon stocks, in the first 30-40 cm of agricultural soil, would significantly reduce the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere related to human activities.
- The Executive Secretariat of the "4 per 1000" initiative is hosted by the CGIAR System Organization, an international organization based in Montpellier.

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC**

#### **Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF)**

The naval variant of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas made its first-ever short arrested landing on the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF) in Goa. This is a big step for the LCA to eventually operate from INS Vikramaditya aircraft carrier. (Arrested landing means to rapidly decelerate an aircraft as it lands.)

#### About:

- The naval LCA made its maiden flight in April 2012 and two prototypes have been flying as part of the development. The first Naval Prototype (NP)-1 made a successful first flight from the SBTF in 2014.
- The naval LCA is designed with stronger landing gears to absorb forces exerted by the ski jump ramp during take-off, to be airborne within 200m and land within 100m, as against 1,000m required for normal runways.
- In December 2016, then Navy Chief Adm Sunil Lanba stated that the LCA in the present form “does not meet the carrier capability which is required by the Navy” but added that they would continue to support the development programme.
- The Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF), which replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier is specifically built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier before they move on to the actual carrier. INS Hansa, Goa is the only SBTF (shore-based test facility) in the country.

#### **Maritime Communication Services**

Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology launched the maritime communication services at Mumbai.

#### About:

- Maritime Connectivity will enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to Voice, Data and Video services while traveling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India, using satellite technology.
- VSAT solutions provider ‘Nelco’, a Tata enterprise has become India’s first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector.
- Satellite bandwidth has been provided on Indian Satellites by ISRO for providing In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) service.

#### **In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC)**

- In December 2018, the Government of India announced the licenses for In-flight and Maritime Communications (IFMC) that allows voice and internet services while flying over the Indian skies and sailing in Indian waters, both for international and Indian aircrafts and vessels.
- Only the authorized IFMC service provider, can provide wireless voice or data or both type of services on ships within Indian territorial waters and on aircraft within or above India or Indian territorial waters. Territorial waters are 12 nautical miles from baseline of the coast and beyond that is the Exclusive Economic Zone upto 200 nautical miles (1 nautical mile is 1.852 Kms.).
- The IFMC license is a key initiative of the Telecom Ministry, a move to liberalise satellite communication services in India.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.**

## DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**Qns** Briefly discuss about objective and implementation of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

**Ans**

In the context of the trend of establishing quality residential schools for the promotion of education in all areas and habitations in the country, the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for ST students take their place among the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

### Objectives of EMRS

- The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and as jobs in government and public and private sectors but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. This would be achieved by:
- Comprehensive physical, mental and socially relevant development of all students enrolled in each and every EMRS. Students will be empowered to be change agent, beginning in their school, in their homes, in their village and finally in a larger context.
- Focus differentially on the educational support to be made available to those in Standards XI and XII, and those in standards VI to X, so that their distinctive needs can be met.
- Support the annual running expenses in a manner that offers reasonable remuneration to the staff and upkeep of the facilities.
- Support the construction of infrastructure that provides education, physical, environmental and cultural needs of student life.

### Coverage of the scheme

- As per existing EMRS Guidelines of 2010, at least one EMRS is to be set up in each Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) / Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) having 50% ST population in the area.
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recognised 163 priority districts having 25% or more Scheduled Tribe (ST) population for implementation of tribal development programmes including establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs). Across the country, as per census 2011 figures, there are 564 sub-districts, i.e. blocks/taluka/tehsils, having more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons.
- As per the budget 2018-19, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.

### Structure of EMRSs

- Admission to these schools will be through selection/competition with suitable provision for preference to children belonging to Primitive Tribal Groups, first generation students, etc.
- Sufficient land would be given by the State Government for the school, play grounds, hostels, residential quarters, etc., free of cost.
- The number of seats for boys and girls will be equal.
- In these schools, education will be entirely free.
- Every class can have maximum 60 students preferably in 2 sections of 30 students each and the total sanctioned strength of the school will be 480 students.
- At the Higher Secondary level (class XI & XII), there will be three sections per class for the three streams in Science, Commerce & Humanities. The maximum sanctioned

strength of the each section may be 30 students. In case of short fall in a section, ST students from other schools may be admitted as per procedure mentioned at above.

#### Management and Running of EMRS

- The EMRSs may be affiliated either to the State or Central Boards of Secondary Education as desired fit by the State Governments/UT Administration.
- The norms and standards for a school class VI to class VIII in respect of the number of teachers to be appointed, as provided in the Schedule to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 shall be strictly followed.
- Efforts may be made to recruit maximum no. of women teachers. At the time of recruitment, preference may be accorded to candidates whose spouses also qualify for selection as teachers. Women should be given preference for employment among the non-teaching staff and in any case women be deployed in the posts of cook, helper and cleaner.
- Each State Government/UT Administration would be solely responsible for the management and effective functioning of the EMRSs.
- State Governments/UT Administration may opt for any feasible/ suitable mode of management whether by autonomous education societies; public-private partnership with reputed educational institutions; in arrangement with the State Department of Education or any other mode found suitable.
- A Management Committee may be constituted for each EMRSs which could include, among others, reputed local NGOs involved with education. Help of such NGOs may be taken to organize socially relevant, development/ welfare extension programmes.
- The tasks of school admissions, appointment of teachers, appointment of staff, personnel matters and day-to-day running of the schools would be handled entirely by the society chosen by the State Government/UT Administration and in the manner deemed most suitable.
- The State Governments/UT Administration shall ensure and maintain the highest quality in the selection of teachers and staff for academic and extra-curricular excellence.

#### Conclusion

- EMRS can impact quality education to Scheduled Tribes (ST) children. Apart from school building, including hostels and staff quarters, playgrounds, computer labs and teacher resource rooms are also included in the scheme. This initiative will benefit ST students immensely.
- By focusing on specific intervention to cater to the educational needs of STs, their quality of life is expected to improve to the level of the rest of the social groups and a visible impact by the 2021 Census.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS**

1. Which of the following is the fourth country after the US, UK and Germany to have its own national standard on bulletproof jacket providing 360-degree protection?  
 (a) **India** (b) France  
 (c) China (d) Russia
2. With reference to the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub, consider the following statements:
  1. India has joined the Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub as a new member.
  2. It's operations are currently financed through grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG).
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
 (c) **Both 1 and 2** (d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. With reference to the Ekalavya Model Residential Schools, consider the following statements:
  1. The scheme of EMRSs was introduced in the year 1997-98 to ensure tribal students get access to quality education in the remote tribal areas.
  2. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) **1 only** (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Which of the following is the aim of '4P1000 Initiative', often mentioned in news?  
 (a) **To significantly reduce the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere related to human activities.**  
 (b) First holistic program dedicated to the economic empowerment of women in Middle east region.  
 (c) To move India to 100% electric cars by 2030.  
 (d) None of the above.
5. With reference to the maritime communication services, consider the following statements:
  1. It will enable high-end support to those in sea by providing access to Voice, Data and Video services while traveling on sailing vessels, cruise liners, ships in India, using satellite technology.
  2. VSAT solutions provider 'Nelco', a Tata enterprise has become India's first company to provide broadband services to the maritime sector.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
 (c) **Both 1 and 2** (d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. With reference to the Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF), consider the following statements:
  1. It replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier is specifically built to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier before they move on to the actual carrier.
  2. INS Parundu, Goa is the only SBTF (shore-based test facility) in the country.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) **1 only**  
 (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2  
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. With reference to the Small Finance Banks (SFB), consider the following statements:
  1. The minimum paid-up voting equity capital for small finance banks shall be Rs.1000 crore, except for such small finance banks which are converted from UCBs.
  2. The foreign shareholding in the small finance bank would be as per the extant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for private sector banks.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only  
 (b) **2 only**  
 (c) Both 1 and 2  
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
8. Jan Soochna Portal 2019, the first-ever public information portal was launched in:  
 (a) Uttar Pradesh  
 (b) **Rajasthan**  
 (c) Bihar  
 (d) Madhya Pradesh
9. With reference to the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), consider the following statements:
  1. COP 14 to UNCCD adopted the Delhi Declaration which is a statement of global action by each country to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030.
  2. The Peace Forest Initiative (PFI) is a global initiative serving as a partnership framework with a focus on land degradation neutrality (LDN) in fragile and conflict affected regions.
 Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
 (a) 1 only  
 (b) 2 only  
 (c) **Both 1 and 2**  
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2