

GOVERNANCE**Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland**

Recently, an apex body of Naga tribes, Naga Hoho has cautioned the Nagaland Government with respect to preparation of the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN), seen as a variant of Assam's National Register of Citizens.

Key Points

The State government had formed a three-member Committee in 2019 for studying, examining, and recommending the implementation of RIIN.

Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland:

- The RIIN will be prepared after an extensive survey with the help of a village-wise and ward-wise list of indigenous inhabitants based on official records. Also, It will be prepared under the supervision of each district administration.
- No fresh indigenous inhabitant certificate will be issued after the RIIN is completed except for children born to the State's indigenous inhabitants who will be issued indigenous certificates along with birth certificates. The RIIN database will be updated accordingly.
- The RIIN will also be integrated with the online system for Inner-Line Permit, a temporary document non-inhabitants are required to possess for entry into and travel in Nagaland.
- The entire exercise will be monitored by the Commissioner of Nagaland. In addition, the state government will designate nodal officers of the rank of a Secretary to the state government.

Naga's Concern:**Exclusion of Nagas:**

- If RIIN implemented the identification process with 1st December, 1963 (the day Nagaland attained statehood) as the cut-off date for determining the permanent residents of the State, it is likely to exclude Nagas who have come from beyond the boundaries of Nagaland.

Loss of Property:

- Naga tribes living in Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh in India and in Myanmar have a legitimate claim to their ancestral homeland.
- There are thousands of Nagas who have bought lands, built houses and settled down in Nagaland for several decades.
- In the absence of records such as land pattas, house taxes paid or enrolment in electoral rolls prior to 1st December, 1963 many procedural anomalies will crop up even within the so-called pure Nagas of Nagaland.

Can Be treated as Illegal:

- The non-indigenous Nagas could be treated as "illegal immigrants" and their lands and property confiscated. The idea of the Nagas as a people to live together and their aspiration to live with self-determination will be irreparably damaged.

Way Forward

- In an already volatile region where the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act 1958 is routinely extended, it is best that Nagaland proceeds with caution in this enterprise. The RIIN should not ultimately become a vehicle to make outsiders of insiders.
- The NRC experiment in Assam witnessed extremely divisive political posturing. Other Northeastern states are sure to be watching with keen interest what is unfolding in Assam and Nagaland. Emotive political issues cannot be allowed to drive the compiling of a registry of citizens.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0**

Recently, the government think tank NITI Aayog has launched India Energy Dashboards (IED) Version 2.0.

NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.

Key Points

- India Energy Dashboards (IED) is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.
- It is an initial step towards building a comprehensive, open, and freely accessible energy data portal for India.
- Energy data published/provided by Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller's Organisation, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is compiled in the Dashboards.

- The IED Provides time series data from FY 2005-06 until FY 2019-20.
- IED provides data at sub-yearly frequencies as well. This includes monthly data and API (Application Programming Interface) linked data from some portals maintained by the government agencies.
- API linked data from Saubhagya, UJALA, PRAAPTI, and Vidyut PRAVAH has been incorporated in the dashboards.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION

Violence in Northern Ireland (UK)

Recently, Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom (UK) saw the worst violence in years. Parts of Northern Ireland are split along sectarian lines, 23 years after a peace deal largely ended Northern Ireland's troubles.

Key Points

Historical Conflict:

- Geographically, Northern Ireland is part of Ireland. Politically, it's part of the UK.
- Ireland, long dominated by the UK, broke free about 100 years ago after centuries of colonisation and an uneasy union. 26 of its 32 counties became an independent, Roman Catholic-majority country. 6 counties in the north, which have a Protestant majority, stayed British.
- Northern Ireland's Catholic minority experienced discrimination in the Protestant-run state.
- In the 1960s, a Catholic civil rights movement demanded change, but faced a harsh response from the government and police.
- The British Army was deployed in 1969, initially to keep the peace.
- The situation deteriorated into a conflict between Irish republican militants who wanted to unite with the south, loyalist paramilitaries who sought to keep Northern Ireland British, and UK troops.
- During three decades of conflict, more than 3,600 people, a majority of them civilians, were killed in bombings and shootings. Most were in Northern Ireland, though the Irish Republican Army also set off bombs in London and other British cities.

Ending the Conflict:

- By the 1990s, after secret talks and with the help of diplomatic efforts by Ireland, Britain and the United States, the combatants reached a peace deal.
- The 1998 Good Friday accord saw the paramilitaries lay down their arms and established a Catholic-Protestant power-sharing government for Northern Ireland.
- The question of Northern Ireland's ultimate status was deferred: it would remain British as long as that was the majority's wish, but a future referendum on reunification was not ruled out.
- While the peace has largely endured, small Irish Republican Army splinter groups have mounted occasional attacks on security forces, and there have been outbreaks of sectarian street violence.
- The power-sharing arrangement has had periods of success and failure and still the government is not trusted by both the sides.

Problem Child of Brexit:

- Northern Ireland has been called the "problem child" of Brexit, the UK's divorce from the European Union (EU).
- As the only part of the UK that has a border with an EU nation, Ireland, it was the trickiest issue to resolve after Britain voted narrowly in 2016 to leave the 27-nation bloc.
- An open Irish border, over which people and goods flow freely, underpins the peace process, allowing people in Northern Ireland to feel at home in both Ireland and the UK.
- The insistence of Britain's government on a "hard Brexit" that took the country out of the EU's economic order meant the creation of new barriers and checks on trade.
- Both Britain and the EU agreed that the border could not be in Ireland because of the risk that would pose to the peace process. The alternative was to put it, metaphorically, in the Irish Sea between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.
- That arrangement has alarmed British unionists, who say it weakens Northern Ireland's place in the UK and could bolster calls for Irish reunification.

Reason for Current Violence:

Brexit and Corona:

- Britain left the EU on 31st December and the new trade arrangements quickly became an irritant to Northern Ireland unionists who want to stay in the UK.
- Early trade glitches, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, led to some empty supermarket shelves, fueling alarm.
- There was anger that British Prime Minister long insisted there would be no new checks on trade as a result of Brexit, had downplayed the scale of the changes wrought by leaving the EU.

Identity Crisis:

- Some in Northern Ireland's British loyalist community feel as if their identity is under threat. And many other loyalists believe that, de facto, Northern Ireland has ceased to be as much a part of the UK as it was.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**National Supercomputing Mission**

The second phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) will be completed by September 2021, taking India's total computational capacity to 16 Petaflops.

Key Points

- **Launch:** NSM was announced in 2015, with an aim to connect national academic and R&D institutions with a grid of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,500 crores over the period of seven years by 2022.
- It supports the government's vision of 'Digital India' and 'Make in India'.
- **Implementation:** NSM is jointly steered by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST - Ministry of Science and Technology) and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Features:

- It is also an effort to improve the number of supercomputers owned by India.
- These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN). The NKN connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high-speed network.
- Under NSM, the long-term plan is to build a strong base of 20,000 skilled persons over the next five years who will be equipped to handle the complexities of supercomputers.

Progress of NSM:

- In the first phase, PARAM Shivay, PARAM Shakti, PARAM Brahma, PARAM Yukti and PARAM Sanganak were deployed at IIT (BHU), IIT Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research.
- Recently, PARAM-Siddhi AI, has been ranked 63rd in the Top 500 list of most powerful supercomputers in the world. It was developed under the NSM.

Recent Development:

- In October 2020, C-DAC had inked MoUs with IITs along with IISc, National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute and NIT, Tiruchirappalli — where a High Power Computing (HPC) system in each institute is currently being installed.
- So far, over 4,500 people have been trained in HPC and further training in Artificial Intelligence will be held at special NSM nodal centres established at four IITs — Kharagpur, Madras, Goa and Palakkad.

Challenges:

- The NSM envisages setting up a network of 70 high-performance computing facilities in the country but skewed funding for the mission during the initial years slowed down the overall pace of building supercomputers.
- Only 16.67% of the total budget of Rs. 4,500 crore, was utilised during the first four-and-a-half years for execution of the mission.

Global Scenario:

- Globally, China has the maximum number of supercomputers and maintains the top position in the world, followed by the US, Japan, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY**Danube Sturgeon**

According to a report released by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), illegal sale of Danube Sturgeon, one of the most endangered species in the world, is rampant in the lower Danube (River) region, especially in Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Danube is the second longest river in Europe after the Volga. It rises in the Black Forest mountains of western Germany and flows for some 2,850 km to its mouth on the Black Sea.



Key Points

- Sturgeons have existed since the time of dinosaurs, for about 200 million years. Some of the species can grow up to eight metre in length and live more than a century.
- They are called 'living fossils' because their appearance has altered very little over the years.
- Living Fossil is an organism that has remained unchanged from earlier geologic times and whose close relatives are usually extinct.
- Other than Sturgeons, Horseshoe crab and ginkgo trees are examples of living fossils.
- Because the sturgeons live for so many years, mature late and spawn with long intervals, they take a long time to recover from environmental and human pressures, according to WWF. This makes them great indicators for the health of the river and other ecological parameters.

Habitat:

- There are 27 species of sturgeons and paddlefishes distributed across the Northern hemisphere. While some species inhabit only freshwater, most species are anadromous, spawning in freshwater but spending much of their life history in marine or brackish environments.
- Danube sturgeons live mostly in the Black Sea, migrating up the Danube and other major rivers to spawn.

Threats:

- Over-exploitation and poaching (exacerbated by poor fishery management and insufficient legal enforcement of fishing bans).
- Blocked migration routes through dams.
- Loss or degradation of habitats.
- Pollution.

Protection Status:

- IUCN Red list: There are 6 species of sturgeon in the Danube River. Five of them are now listed as critically endangered.
- CITES: Appendix-II.

INDIAN POLITY

Chief Election Commissioner

Recently, the President appointed Election Commissioner **Sushil Chandra** as the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

He replaces **Sunil Arora** who has retired.

Key Points

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- It was established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day). The secretariat of the commission is located in New Delhi.
- The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.

- It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.
- Part XV (Article 324-329) of the Indian Constitution: It deals with elections, and establishes a commission for these matters.

Structure of ECI:

- Originally the commission had only one election commissioner but after the Election Commissioner Amendment Act 1989, it has been made a multi-member body
- Presently, it consists of the CEC and two Election Commissioners.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Exercise Shantir Ogroshena**

Multinational military exercise Shantir Ogroshena, which went for 10 days in Bangladesh, concluded on 12th April 2021.

The year 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh.

Key Points

- The exercise was organised to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's Father of the Nation and celebrate the golden jubilee of the liberation of Bangladesh.
- It was held at Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh.
- 'Shantir Ogroshena' 2021 means "Front Runner of the Peace".

Theme:

- The theme of this exercise was to strengthen defence ties and enhance interoperability amongst neighbourhood countries to ensure effective peacekeeping operations.
- It was a UN (United Nations)- mandated counterterrorism exercise.

Countries that Participated:

- Troops from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka participated in the exercise with observers from the USA, UK, Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.

Other Exercises involving Bangladesh:

- SAMPRITI (Army).
- TABLE TOP (Air).
- IN-BN CORPAT (Navy).
- SAMVEDNA (Multinational Air Exercise with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and UAE).

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns Discuss the major factors that are responsible for the origin of ocean currents across the globe. (250 words)

Ans:

Ocean currents are continuous movements of water in the ocean that follow set paths, kind of rivers in the ocean. There are two distinct current systems in the ocean—surface circulation, which stirs a relatively thin upper layer of the sea, and deep circulation, which sweeps along the deep-sea floor.

Ocean currents can be caused by wind, density differences in water masses caused by temperature and salinity variations, gravity, and events such as earthquakes or storms.

- **Gravity:** Surface currents in the ocean are driven by global wind systems that are fueled by energy from the sun. Also, Coriolis forces from the Earth's rotation interact with the currents.
- **Planetary Winds:** Patterns of surface currents are determined by wind direction.
- Surface wind-driven currents generate upwelling currents in conjunction with landforms, creating deepwater currents.
- **Variation in Density:** Currents may also be caused by density differences in water masses due to temperature (thermo) and salinity (haline) variations via a process known as thermohaline circulation.
- These currents move water masses through the deep ocean—taking nutrients, oxygen, and heat with them.
- **Occasional Events:** Geophysical events such as huge storms and underwater earthquakes can also trigger serious ocean currents, moving masses of water inland when they reach shallow water and coastlines.
- Earthquakes may also trigger the rapid downslope movement of water-saturated sediments, creating strong turbidity currents.

- **Topography:** When a current that is moving over a broad area is forced into a confined space, it may become very strong.
- On the ocean floor, water masses forced through narrow openings in a ridge system or flowing around a seamount may create currents that are far greater than in the surrounding water.
- This affects the distribution and abundance of organisms as well as the scientists and their equipment seeking to study these organisms.

Conclusion

The ocean currents act as the global conveyor belt and thus play a dominant role in determining the climate of many of Earth's regions.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Kazakhstan shares land borders with Russia, China and Uzbekistan.
2. Kazakhstan is India's largest trading partner in Central Asia.
3. KAZIND is the joint military exercise of India and Kazakhstan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) **1, 2 and 3**

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC):

1. The CEC is appointed by the President of India.
2. The CEC can resign anytime or can be removed even before the expiry of his/her term.

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. The 'Doomsday Glacier' recently seen in the news is located in?

- a) **Antarctica**
- b) Arctic Circle
- c) Asia
- d) North America

4. With reference to the military exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena', consider the following statements:

1. It was a United Nations mandated counterterrorism exercise.
2. It was a bilateral exercise between India and Bangladesh.

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

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Northern Ireland is a political unit of the United Kingdom.
2. The Northern Ireland region is dominated by Roman Catholic population.

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