

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

CENTRAL TIBETAN RELIEF COMMITTEE

- The Union government has extended the scheme to provide 40 crore grants-in-aid to the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) for another five years, up to fiscal year 2025-26.

About

- In 2015, the NDA government came out with a new policy for the Tibetan refugees and sanctioned a scheme of providing grant-in-aid of 40 crore to CTRC for five years to meet the administrative and social welfare activities expenses of 36 Tibetan settlement offices in different States.
- More than one lakh Tibetan refugees are settled in India.
 - Major concentration of the Tibetan refugees is in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Tibetan refugees began pouring into India in the wake of the flight of the Dalai Lama from Tibet in 1959.
 - The government decided to give them asylum as well as assistance towards temporary settlement.
- The scheme was extended after the Galwan incident in 2020 where 20 soldiers were killed in violent clashes with the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Eastern Ladakh.

Central Tibetan Relief Committee

- The Department of Home was established in 1960 and it is one of the first Departments to be established and given the huge important task of coordinating relief and rehabilitation works for thousands of Tibetan refugees who fled from Tibet to neighbouring countries of **India, Nepal and Bhutan**.
- Societies Registration Act: In 1981, by considering the expanding works of the Department, and to give legal standing to its activities, the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) was formed and registered as Charitable Society under Indian Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.
- **Membership:** It Includes members from each of the 53 Tibetan settlements in India, Nepal and Bhutan.
- **Task:** It is dedicated to preserving the cultural and religious heritage of Tibet and building and maintaining sustainable, democratic communities in exile.
- **Funding:** It is dependent on generous international assistance from governments, especially India, Nepal and Bhutan, philanthropic organizations and individuals.

Objective of the Committee

- The main objective of the committee is to coordinate Individual, Voluntary Agencies and Indian Government's efforts to rehabilitate and settle Tibetan Refugees.
- It also assists and promotes the upliftment of the poor, needy, backward, underprivileged individuals and making the Tibetan settlement viable and sustainable.

The Tibetan Parliament in Exile (TPiE)

- It is officially the Parliament of the Central Tibetan Administration.
- It is the unicameral and highest legislative organ of the Central Tibetan Administration, the government-in-exile of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- It was established and is based in **Dharamshala**.
- The creation of this democratically elected body has been one of the major changes that the **14th Dalai Lama brought** about in his efforts to introduce a democratic system of administration.
- The Tibetan Parliament in Exile is headed by a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, who are elected by the members amongst themselves.
- Any Tibetan who has reached the age of 25 has the right to contest elections to the parliament.
- The elections are held every five years and any Tibetan who has reached the age of 18 is entitled to vote.
- Sessions of the parliament are held twice every year, with an interval of six months between the sessions.

India's Tibet policy

- **Shimla convention:** For centuries, Tibet was India's actual neighbour, and in 1914, it was Tibetan representatives, along with the Chinese that signed the Simla convention with British India that delineated boundaries.
- Most of India's boundaries and the **3500km LAC** is with the Tibetan Autonomous Region, and not the rest of China.
- **China's full accession of Tibet in 1950:** China repudiated the convention and the McMahon line that divided the two countries. And in 1954, India signed an agreement with China, agreeing to trading terms on what it called the "Tibet region of China".

- In 1959, when the **Dalai Lama** fled to India, PM Nehru gave him and Tibetan refugee's shelter, and they set up the Tibetan government in exile, which continues to hold elections.
- But the official Indian policy is that the **Dalai Lama** is a spiritual leader, and the Tibetan community in India, with more than a lakh exiles, is not allowed to undertake any political activity.

Recent changes and Shift in the Policy

- **Changes in Tibet itself:** Over the past few decades, the Chinese government has moved to change Tibet in many ways. From pouring in investment, infrastructure projects, to pouring in Han or mainland Chinese, in an effort to Sinicize the population.
- There's Chinese dams on the upper riparian areas of the Brahmaputra, and construction of Tibetan villages along the LAC, particularly along Arunachal Pradesh boundary, which can prove to be a future flashpoint aimed at bolstering Chinese claims of territory.
- **Tibetan Militia groups:** As India-China tensions grow and turn violent after the Galwan deaths, China has begun to raise Tibetan Militia groups, while the Indian Army trains the Tibetan Special Frontier Force, which could lead to the frightening albeit unlikely spectre of Tibetans on both sides fighting each other at some point in the future.
- **Citizenship to Tibetans:** There is then the question over the future of the Tibetan community in India that the government doesn't give citizenship to Tibetans born in India after the cut-off year of 1987, leaving the youth of the community completely in limbo, living in segregated communes in different parts of India.
- **Role of US:** the US has also increased its role, by accepting more Tibetan refugees, with an estimated 30,000 now residing there. Most prominently, the Karmapa Lama, the head of the Karma Kagyu sect, who took Dominican citizenship, also resides permanently in the US now.
- The larger question is over the succession to the 86-year-old Dalai Lama, who has been not only the spiritual leader and the leader of the **Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism**, but the political leader of the community worldwide.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development recently held 5th Zonal meeting with Eastern region in Bhubaneswar.

Empowerment and protection of women and children who constitute 67.7% of India's population and ensuring their wholesome development in a safe and secure environment is crucial for sustainable and equitable development of the country and for achieving transformational economic and social changes. To achieve this objective, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has recently approved 3 important Umbrella Schemes of the Ministry to be implemented in mission mode Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. These 3 Missions will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission period, 2021-22 to 2025-26

Mission POSHAN 2.0

- Is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme. It seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers through a strategic shift in nutrition content and delivery and by creation of a convergent eco-system to develop and promote practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity.
- Poshan 2.0 will seek to optimize the quality and delivery of food under the Supplementary Nutrition Program.
- Poshan 2.0 will bring 3 important programmes/schemes under its ambit, viz., Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Poshan Abhiyan.

Mission Shakti

- This mission envisages a unified citizen-centric lifecycle support for women through integrated care, safety, protection, rehabilitation and empowerment to unshackle women as they progress through various stages of their life.
- Mission Shakti has two sub-schemes 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya'. While the "Sambal" sub-scheme is for safety and security of women, the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for empowerment of women.

Mission Vatsalya

- The objective the mission to secure a healthy and happy childhood for every child in the country; foster a sensitive, supportive and synchronized ecosystem for development of children.
- The mission also assist States/UTs in delivering the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Act 2015; achieve the SDG goals.
- Components under Mission Vatsalya will include statutory bodies; service delivery structures; institutional care/services; non-institutional community-based care; emergency outreach services; training and capacity building.

2. Sangeet Natak and Lalit Kala Akademi Awards

- Recently, the Vice-President of India presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2018 and National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi for the year 2021 .

About

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar):

- They are national honours bestowed by the government on performing artists and teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts.
- The awards were given in the categories of music, dance, and theatre.
- The recipients are selected by the Academy's General Council, consisting of distinguished musicians, dancers, theatre artists and scholars in these disciplines and nominees of the Government of India, State Governments and Union Territories of the Indian Union.
- The Akademi also confers Fellowships on eminent artists and scholars of music, dance and drama; and has in 2006 instituted annual awards to young artists – the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar.
 - The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship is the highest honour conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi without distinction of nationality, race, caste, religion, creed, or sex.
 - The criteria restricts any person below the age of 50 to ordinarily be considered for the honour. The recommendations are received from the current fellows along with the members of the General Council of the Akademi.

Lalit Kala Akademi Awards:

- The Lalit Kala Akademi has instituted several awards and honours to be conferred on artists in recognition for their outstanding work in the field of art.
 - Of all these awards and recognitions, the honour of Fellow of the Lalit Kala Akademi is regarded as the highest honour conferred on an artist by the Lalit Kala Akademi.
 - The National Exhibition of Art is organised annually by the Lalit Kala Akademi as it's the most prestigious event, showcasing the brilliance and capacious oeuvre of the awarded artists.
 - The 62nd National Exhibition organised this year is a platform to showcase the outstanding artists on a nationwide scale.

3. Nadabet Indo-Pak Border Darshan' Project

- The Union Home Minister inaugurated the 'Nadabet Indo-Pak Border'(Seema Darshan Project') tourism project in Banaskantha in Gujarat .

'Nadabet Indo-Pak Border Darshan' Project

About:

- It has been started jointly by the Gujarat government's Tourism Department and the Border Security Force (BSF), where tourists can get acquainted with stories of BSF personnel and also engage in a number of sports and recreational activities.
- Under the 'Seema Darshan Project', all kinds of tourist facilities and other special attractions have been developed at a cost of 1 crore 25 lakhs.

Significance:

- The border tourism project will boost tourism and also deter migration into India from villages at the border.
- It will provide employment to over 5 lakh youth in the next 10 years.

4. NITI puts out Energy and Climate Index list

- NITI Aayog has developed the State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) which measures the state's efforts for improving the energy sector. The index is based on 2019-20 data.
- The index has been designed to assess and identify the scope for improving the performance of states and to help them efficiently manage their energy resources.
- This will provide the states and concerned central ministries/departments with a ready reckoner of valuable information which in turn would empower them to formulate and implement suitable policies.
- The index has a preliminary set of 27 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) covering 6 parameters
 - DISCOM's performance
 - Access, affordability & reliability of energy
 - Clean energy initiatives
 - Energy efficiency
 - Environmental sustainability
 - New initiatives

Objectives

- Ranking the States based on their efforts towards improving energy access, energy consumption, energy efficiency, and safeguarding environment•
- Helping drive the agenda of affordable, accessible, efficient and clean energy transition at the State level;
- Encouraging healthy competition among the states on different dimensions of energy and climate. Since DISCOMS are the important link in the entire energy value chain, their performance has been assigned with higher weightage (40%) in the overall index.
- The aspects of financial viability and performance of DISCOMS have been taken into consideration to encourage competition among states.
- Other parameters such as 'access, affordability & reliability of energy', 'clean energy initiatives', 'energy efficiency', 'environmental sustainability' and 'new initiatives' have been assigned weights of 15%, 15%, 6%, 12% and 12% respectively.
- The overall objective of the index is to develop healthy competition among the states to perform better and provide quality energy services to users in their states

Performances

- The States have been categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs.
- Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of larger States, while Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were the bottom three States.
- Goa emerged as the top performer in the smaller States category followed by Tripura and Manipur.
- Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli are the top performers.
- Punjab was the best performer in discom performance, while Kerala topped in access, affordability and reliability category.
- Haryana was the best performer in clean energy initiative among larger States and Tamil Nadu in the energy efficiency category.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q1. For India, BIMSTEC allows the confluence of its Act East and the Neighbourhood Policies. Discuss the potential of BIMSTEC in a rapidly changing Indo-Pacific region. (250 words)

Introduction

- The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional grouping of seven countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand that lie in the littoral and adjacent regions of the Bay of Bengal. This sub-regional organisation came into being on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration. The first summit was held in 2004 and the secretariat established in Dhaka in 2014. Technological and economic cooperation among South Asian and Southeast Asian countries along the coast of the Bay of Bengal is the main objective of BIMSTEC
- Sri Lanka is gearing up to host the Fifth Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit.

Body

- BIMSTEC allows the confluence of its Act East and the Neighbourhood Policies
- BIMSTEC is the natural platform for India to implement its regional connectivity, Neighbourhood First and Act East policies.
- BIMSTEC is important for free trade agreement, poverty alleviation, tourism, energy and climate change, and even counter-terrorism and disaster management.
- BIMSTEC** could allow India to push a constructive agenda to counter Chinese investments, and follow best practices for connectivity projects based on recognised international norms.
- Myanmar and Thailand, have a crucial place for India's ambitious connectivity plans for north-eastern region.
- Myanmar is only Southeast Asian country India has a land boundary with.
- India-Myanmar-Thailand highway is one of the key projects that figures in a big way in the government's Act East policy.

Potential of BIMSTEC in a rapidly changing Indo-Pacific region.

Connectivity:

- BIMSTEC serves two purposes for India – it makes it easier for India to share a common regional platform with its neighbours in South Asia (sans Pakistan) and secondly, BIMSTEC also establishes a linkage between South and Southeast Asia.
- Urgency of promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation via BIMSTEC and BBIN has to be seen in the context of China's BRI and the compelling strategic challenge posed by China's muscular geo-economic and geo-political interventions in Asia, particularly in India's neighbourhood.

- The development of the North-eastern region, by opening up to Bangladesh and Myanmar, is another incentive for India.

Regional Co-operation: Regional cooperation under the ambit of SAARC has become difficult made BIMSTEC more viable:

- Despite India's keen interest in cooperating and strengthening intra-regional connectivity by backing the SAARC–Motor vehicle agreement, the agreement was stalled following Pakistan's reluctance.
- Similarly, the SAARC satellite project that India proposed was abandoned following objection from Pakistan in 2016
- SAARC has also faced obstacles in the area of security cooperation. A major hindrance in this regard has been the lack of consensus on threat perceptions, since member countries disagree on the idea of threats. Example: cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Cordial Relationship:

- The member countries have generally cordial relationships, something patently missing among the SAARC countries.
- BIMSTEC's major strength comes from the fact that it includes two influential regional powers: Thailand and India. This adds to the comfort of smaller neighbours by reducing the fear of dominance by one big power.

Economic vistas: As a trade bloc, BIMSTEC provides many opportunities.

- The region has countries with the fastest-growing economies in the world. The combined GDP in the region is around US\$2 trillion and will likely grow further.
- Trade among the BIMSTEC member countries reached six percent in just a decade, while in SAARC, it has remained around five percent since its inception.
- Compared to SAARC, BIMSTEC has greater trade potential as well. Among the member countries, India's intra-BIMSTEC trade is around 3 percent of its total trade.
- BIMSTEC regional grouping happens to have five nations that are also part of SAARC. The fact that this region is growing at 6.5% per annum, collectively comprises of 1.5 billion people, is the drive behind India's focus being part of BIMSTEC.

Way Forward:

- The members need to work collectively towards making BIMSTEC a stronger, more effective and result-oriented organisation for achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal Region.
- BIMSTEC secretariat must be significantly empowered with more human and financial resources.
- BIMSTEC will have to prioritize economic connectivity, which is the prerequisite for regional integration.
- Need for upgrading cooperation in disaster management, terrorism, maritime security and transnational crime.
- BIMSTEC weather and climate centre at Noida should be converted into a development centre on disaster management.
- India can provide training to member states at its disaster management training centre in Nagpur.
- India will need to take on an informal BIMSTEC leadership role and let its commitments lead by example.
- Now is the time not just to deliberate, but also to deliver. Now is the time to translate promises into performance. neighbours believe in its nuclear doctrine through effective confidence building measures.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. With reference to Dhrupad, consider the following statements:

1. It is associated with Carnatic Music.
2. Dhrupad is traditionally performed by women.
3. Instruments like tanpura are used in it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 323A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative Tribunals with respect to conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
2. The provision for Tribunals was added by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Neither 1 nor 2 (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 2 only **(d) only 1**

- Q3.** With reference to Political parties, consider the following statements:
1. Recognition as a State or National Party can be done if the conditions mentioned under Representation of People's Act are fulfilled.
 2. A political party recognised in 4 or more states becomes eligible to be known as National Party.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) Neither 1 nor 2 **(b) 2 only** (c) 1 and 2 both (d) only 1
- Q4.** Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are given in which of the following categories ?
1. Music
 2. Dance
 3. Theatre
 4. Puppetry
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 3 only (b) 2 and 4 only (c) 1, 2 and 4 only **(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**
- Q5.** Consider the following statements:
1. He is believed to be the first Hindu to start an orphanage for unfortunate children.
 2. He along with his followers formed the Satyashodhak Samaj.
 3. His well-known books include Gulamgiri and Shetkarayacha Aasud.
- Which of the following social reformers has been referred to here?
- (a) Dayanand Saraswati
(b) Debendranath Tagore
(c) Jyotiba Phule
(d) Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
- Q6.** Consider the following statements with respect to Barbara forest of Odisha recently seen in news
1. It is India's only forest guarded by CRPF
 2. Majority of the vegetation consist of sandal wood
- Choose the incorrect statement using the code given below
- a) 1 only** b) 2 only c) Both d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Q7.** Examine the following statements with reference to recently released Energy and climate Index by NITI Ayog
1. Gujrat is the top performer among the large state category
 2. DISCOMS performance has been assigned with higher weightage in the overall index.
 3. Punjab was the best performer in DISCOM performance
- Select the correct statement/s using the code given below
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only c) 2 and 3 only **d) All of the above**
- Q8.** Recently Union cabinet approved various schemes in mission mode; consider the following statement with regards to 'mission Shakti'
1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in Eastern region states as pilot basis
 2. Under Mission Shakti the sub scheme "Sambal" focus on safety and security of women and the "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for empowerment of women.
- Which of the above statement /s is/are not correct?
- a) 1 only** b) 2 only c) Both d) None of the above
- Q9.** "Mission Vatsalya" is related to which of the following
- a) Nutrition program for children age 1-5 years
 - b) Nutrition program for pregnant women
 - c) Healthy and happy childhood for every child in the country**
 - d) Both a and c
- Q10.** The technique called Raman spectroscopy recently seen in news, it can be used in
1. Studying the behavior of minerals under harsh conditions
 2. Study of bone structure
 3. Detected micro plastics in water
 4. Identification of contaminants
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 3 and 4 only c) 1, 3, and 4 only **d) All of the above**