

CLATOPEDIA

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2020



NEWS EVENT

- National Events
- International Events
- Awards & Honours
- Economic Affairs
- Report & Index
- Legal Affairs
- Important Dates

CLAT
NEW
PATTERN

© COPYRIGHT @LEGALIGHT Education

CONTACT US ON 8969320555

Website: WWW.LEGALIGHT.IN

JTELEGRAM: <https://t.me/LegalightCLAT>

VISIT US : DPL HOUSE, DADIJEE LANE, BORING ROAD, PATNA (BIHAR)

LI **LEGALIGHT**
WHERE LAWYERS
ARE BORN

TOPPERS OF CLAT 2020



Aadya Singh
AIR 02



Jai Singh Rathore
AIR 03



Anand Kumar
AIR 05



Yashwant Kumar
AIR 48



Anand Shankar
AIR 10 (EWS)
AILET 2020



Harshita Kushwah
AIR 159

Join our Online/Offline Course/ Test Series to become the next Topper.

Online Course for CLAT 2021

- 60 Mock Tests | 300 Sectionals
- 450+ Online Sessions
- Study Material on New Pattern
- Live Doubt Clearing sessions
- Batch Size: 20

Price : Rs. 40,000/-

Test Series for CLAT 2021

- Total Mock: 45 Mocks
- 28 CLAT Based
- 8 AILET Based , 4 MHCET
- 2 SLAT, 2 BLAT AND 1 LSAT
- 1-1 Personalised Analysis

Price : Rs. 4,500/-

Visit www.legalight.in to join the Course.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. ASIIM PROJECT.....	2	14. INDIA'S RACE TO TEST MISSILE.....	24
2. EXERCISE BONGOSAGAR.....	3	15. BRANDING OF KASTURI COTTON.....	26
3. INDIA-MYANMAR RELATIONSHIP.....	5	16. SVAMITA SCHEME.....	28
4. MARITIME VISION 2030.....	7	17. GREEN CRACKERS BY NEERI.....	29
5. KRISHNA AND GODAVARI RIVER DISPUTE.....	8	18. BRICS MINISTER'S MEETING.....	30
6. INAUGURATION OF 44 BRIDGES.....	9	19. 15 TH YEARS OF RTI.....	31
7. HAR GHAR JAL'S FIRST STATE.....	11	20. BHARATMALA PARIYOJANA.....	34
8. SLINEX- 2020.....	13	21. AMRUT MISSION.....	35
9. AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME.....	14	22. DAY-NRLM PACKAGE FOR J&K.....	36
10. COVIRAP COVID-19 TESTING.....	17	23. ZOJILA TUNNEL'S PROJECT.....	39
11. ATAL TUNNEL.....	18	24. OPERATION DURACHARI.....	41
12. INS KAVARATTI INDUCTED.....	20	25. HATHRAS GANGRAPE CASE.....	42
13. ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDERS DISPUTE.....	20	26. CRIME REPORT BY NCRB.....	43

2. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN.....	45	11. US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2020.....	64
2. NATO V. CSTO.....	46	12. 75 TH SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.....	67
3. TURKEY OPERATIONS IN SYRIA.....	49	13. POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN.....	69
4. PAKISTAN RE-ELECTED TO UNHCR.....	50	14. TENSIONS BETWEEN FRANCE & TURKEY.....	71
5. INDIA -MEXICO BILATERAL TIES.....	52	15. THAILAND PROTESTS 2020.....	73
6. THIRD ASSEMBLY OF ISA.....	54	16. US EXIT PARIS AGREEMENT.....	75
7. MALABAR EXERCISE.....	56	17. 65 TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAM.....	77
8. INDIA US 2+2 MEETING.....	57	18. OSIRIS-REX MISSION BY NASA.....	79
9. POLITICAL CRISIS IN KYRGYZSTAN.....	59	19. INDIA ASSUMES CHAIR OF ILO.....	81
10. G-20 (GROUP OF TWENTY).....	61		

3. AWARDS AND HONOURS

1. NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2020.....	83	5. NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS 2020.....	89
2. NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE 2020.....	85	6. NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2020.....	90
3. NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY 2020.....	86	7. NATIONAL WATER AWARDS	92
4. NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE 2020.....	87	8. NATIONAL START-UP AWARDS.....	94

4. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

1. GOVT. MEASURES TO BOOST CAPEX.....	96	4. WORLD BANK BIENNIAL REPORT.....	100
2. RBI ISSUED GOLD BOND SCHEME.....	97	5. STARS PROJECT.....	102
3. INDIA BELOW BANGLADESH IN PER CAPITA GDP.....	98	6. WORLD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BY IMF.....	103

5. REPORTS AND INDEXES

1. OXFAM RELEASED REPORT' CARBON INEQUALITY.....	106	2. REPORT ON TEA LABOUR RIGHTS VIOLATION.....	108
---	-----	--	-----

3. GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX.....	110	5. EASE OF DOING BUSINESS REPORT, 2020.....	114
4. INDIA INNOVATION INDEX BY NITI AAYOG.....	112	6. WB REPORT ON POVERTY.....	115
		7. ANNUAL STATE OF EDUCATION REPORT 2020.....	117

6. LEGAL AFFAIRS

1. FARM BILL, 2020.....	119	5. SC JUDGEMENT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.....	124
2. LABOUR CODES BILL, 2020.....	120	6. BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION CASE.....	126
3. J&K OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, 2020.....	122		
4. SUPREME COURT ON RIGHT TO PROTEST.....	123	7. EXECUTIVE V. JUDICIARY.....	127

7. IMPORTANT APPOINTMENTS.....130

8. IMPORTANT DATES & DAYS.....133

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#AMBEDKAR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND INCUBATION MISSION

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the 'Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)' under Venture Capital Fund for Scheduled Castes (SCs) with a view to promoting innovation and enterprise among SC students studying in higher educational institutions.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION

- To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
- To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergistic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Implemented By: Venture Capital Fund for SCs (VCF-SCs) which was set up in 2015-16 with the Fund size of Rs. 500 Crore. Under this fund, 117 companies promoted by SC entrepreneurs have been sanctioned financial assistance to set up business ventures.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MISSION

- 1,000 SC youth would be identified in the next 4 years with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions.
- They will be funded @ Rs. 30 lakhs in 3 years as equity (investment) funding so that they can translate their start-up ideas into commercial ventures.
- Successful ventures would further qualify for venture capital funding of up to Rs. 5 Crore from the VCF-SCs.
- Venture capital is a form of private equity and a type of financing that investors provide to startup companies and small businesses that are believed to have long-term growth potential.

ELIGIBILITY & SIGNIFICANCE

- ASIIM under VCF-SC will promote innovation in the SC youth and would help them to become job-givers from job-seekers.
- It would further give fillip to the 'Stand Up India' initiative of the Prime Minister.
- Youth who have been identified by the TBIs.
- Students who have been awarded under the Smart India Hackathon or Smart India Hardware Hackathon being conducted by the Ministry of Education.
- Innovative ideas focusing on the socio-economic development of the society identified in the TBIs.
- Start-ups nominated and supported by corporates through Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) funds.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION RELATED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

"Social justice is the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. Social workers aim to open the doors of access and opportunity for everyone, particularly those in greatest need." National Association of Social Workers. "Social justice encompasses economic justice.

- Article 23: Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour.
 - Article 24: Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc.
 - Article 37: Application of the principles contained in this Part (DPSP).
 - Article 38: State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people.
-
- Article 39: Certain principles of policy to be followed by the State.
 - Article 39A: Equal justice and free legal aid.
 - Article 46: Promotion of Educational and Economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.
-
- Social Safeguards: Article 17: Abolition of Untouchability.
 - Article 25: Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion.
-
- Political Safeguards: Article 330: Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People.
 - Article 332: Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States.
 - Article 334: Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after sixty years.
-
- Article 243D: Reservation of seats (in Panchayats).
 - Article 243T: Reservation of seats (in Municipalities).

#EXERCISE BONGOSAGAR BETWEEN INDIA & BANGLADESH

- The second edition of **Exercise Bongosagar**, bilateral naval exercise between India and Bangladesh, is scheduled to commence in Northern Bay of Bengal on 3rd October 2020. Its first edition was held in **2019**.
- India enabled Bangladesh's liberation in **December 1971** when it **militarily assisted the erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)** to acquire freedom from its oppressive western wing which unleashed a massive genocide of its own citizens of Bangla ethnicity. More than 10 million persecuted citizens of East Pakistan fled to India.
- In the 1971 war, the **US and China**, which had begun their own rapprochement, **supported Pakistan**, and were **opposed to Indian assistance to the East Pakistan**.
- With tacit support from Moscow, India achieved a spectacular military victory and liberated Dhaka, handing over power to **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** who symbolised political leadership.

AREAS OF CONCERN

- Failed river water sharing agreements between India and Bangladesh despite many efforts. Chief among them is the **Teesta agreement** which was inked in 2011 but has not moved forward because of tensions between the Central and WB governments.
- Growing concerns in Bangladesh over the **NRC in Assam** and about its conflicting explanations by the Indian government. The problem in Assam is part of the tragic legacy of the Indian subcontinent's partition in 1947 and the movement of people across the new frontiers in the east since then.

CHINESE INVASION IN INDIA & BANGLADESH RELATIONS

- The strategic ties between India and China have evolved and how **Bangladesh-India-China triangle** is often obscured by the high visibility accorded to Pakistan in the uneasy relationship between the two Asian giants.
- Post Bangladesh liberation, China's strategic and security concerns over India's growing involvement** in the geopolitics of the region led to its investment in Pakistan, which emboldened Rawalpindi (Pakistan army headquarter) to embark upon a proxy war against India (with terrorism as a tool) which began in 1990 and continues till now.
- Hence, **India's abiding regional strategic objective should be to ensure that Bangladesh does not morph into another Pakistan**, either by way of being compelled into choosing Beijing over Delhi or nurturing radical Islamic ideologies domestically.
- Currently, Bangladesh is an active partner of the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** that Delhi has not signed up to. In the **security sector, Bangladesh is also a major recipient** of Chinese military inventory, including submarines.

EXERCISE BONGOSAGAR 2020

- Aim:** To develop interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- Participants:** Naval ships from both the countries along with the maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters will be participating in the exercise.
- It will be followed by the **3rd edition of India-Bangladesh Coordinated Patrol (IN-BN CORPAT)**, wherein both countries will undertake joint patrolling along the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)**. CORPATS have **strengthened understanding between both the navies** and instituted measures to stop the conduct of unlawful activities.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EXERCISE

- The exercise reflects the priority that Indian Navy accords to the Bangladesh Navy as part of the **SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) Vision**.
- This year's edition assumes greater significance since it is being conducted during **Mujib Barsho, the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- It strengthens the close and long-standing **India-Bangladesh relations** covering a wide spectrum of activities and interactions. Both countries share close cultural bonds and a shared vision of democratic society and a rules-based order.

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia

Shakti Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise	India & China

#INDIAN DELEGATES VISIT (INDIA-MYANMAR RELATIONSHIP)

- A two-day visit by the Foreign Secretary of India and the Army Chief to Myanmar completed with greater engagement between **India and Myanmar**.
- **Health and Pandemic:** As a part of India's **Medical or Drug Diplomacy** a package of **3,000 vials** of the antiviral **Remdesivir** given to assist Myanmar in its fight against the pandemic.
- India has shown willingness to prioritise Myanmar in sharing Covid -19 vaccines, when available.
- **Infrastructure and Connectivity:** Operationalisation of the crucial **Sittwe port** in Myanmar's Rakhine state **by March 2021** is committed.
- The two sides also discussed progress in the ongoing Indian-assisted infrastructure projects such as the **India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway** and the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project**. The project will link **Kolkata to Sittwe in Myanmar** and then from **Myanmar's Kaladan river to India's north-east**.
- **Security:** India has been concerned over some militant groups like the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) from the North-East region taking shelter in Myanmar. Myanmar handed over 22 cadres of Indian insurgent groups in May 2020. The maintenance of security and stability in their border areas and mutual commitment not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities inimical to each other were re-stressed.

TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY

- ❖ Myanmar successfully conducted the 4th meeting of the **21st Century Panglong Peace Conference** in Nay Pyi Taw.
- **The Union Peace Conference:** **21st Century Panglong** is a continuing peace conference started in **2016**.
- **Aim:** To have a stable political environment in Myanmar with peaceful transition into democracy.
- **Outcome of 4th meeting:** The government of Myanmar and ten armed ethnic groups signed a framework agreement for the **National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)**.
- **Indian Support:** India assured continued support in sharing experiences in constitutionalism and federalism to assist Myanmar in its democratic **transition**.

Rohingya Issues: India came forward for support for ensuring safe, sustainable and speedy return of **Rohingya refugees** from refugee's camps of Bangladesh. Building on the progress made under the **Rakhine State Development Programme (RSDP)**, India proposed to finalize projects under phase-III of the programme, including setting up of a **skills training centre** and **upgrading of agricultural mechanization**.

- **Liaison Office:** With the formal inauguration of liaison office in Nay Pyi Taw, India has taken one more **significant step** towards establishing its **embassy** in Nay Pyi Taw. India has its embassy in **Yangon**, the former capital.

OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION

A bust of Bal Gangadhar Tilak in Mandalay Jail is a symbolic gesture for a closer relationship and mutual existence.

Mandalay Jail Connection: Between 1908 and 1914, he spent 6 years in Mandalay Prison for defending the actions of revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki.

Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki had tried to assassinate the District Judge, Mr. Kingsford by throwing bombs at the carriage in which he was supposed to travel.

Investment: With investments of over USD 1.2 billion, Myanmar has the highest Indian investment in any country in South Asia. India's development cooperation in Myanmar is estimated at USD 1.4 billion.

Energy: The two countries are also expanding partnership in the area of energy cooperation. Recently, India approved an investment of over USD 120 million in the Shwe Oil and Gas project.

INDIA AND MYANMAR RELATIONS

India and Myanmar have shared cultural roots and historical relations, apart from the strategic, economic, social and political ties.

- Myanmar is a member of both **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, which is an organization of East Asian nations as well as the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** which bridges South and South-East Asia.
- Connectivity projects through Myanmar help India overcome its **Chicken-neck dilemma (Siliguri Corridor)**. Myanmar is also necessary for the **development of North-Eastern India**.
- Myanmar stands at the confluence of India's **Neighbourhood First** and **Act East Policy** and **India-Myanmar partnership** is at the heart of India's vision to create a connected and cooperative neighbourhood.
- Recently, **India and Myanmar** had signed **10 agreements with a focus on socio-economic development of Myanmar**, during Myanmar President U Win Myint's visit to India.
- Myanmar's growing closeness with China and the recent proposal of **China Myanmar Economic Corridor** is a cause of concern for India amidst growing **India-China tension**.

#MARITIME VISION 2030

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Shipping has inaugurated the **Direct Port Entry (DPE)** facility of **V O Chidambaranar Port Trust (VOCPT)**.

- The state-of-the-art DPE facility is created inside the **Truck Parking Terminal** which was developed under the '**Sagarmala**' for issuing customs clearance of export cargo.
- The IT-enabled infrastructure at the ports will make Indian ports, world-class ports aligning with the '**Maritime Vision 2030**' of the **Ministry of Shipping**.

Significance

- It will **reduce logistics cost** and **increase the velocity of the cargo**.
- It would **enable direct movement of containers from factories**, without intermediate handling at any container freight stations (CFSs), on a **24x7 basis**.
- It will help in **increasing Ease of Doing Business** for the exporters, as the facility will **bring efficiency and reduce dwell time, lower tariff cost and improve the competitiveness of shippers** in international trade.

Maritime India Vision 2030

- It is a **ten-year blueprint for the maritime sector** which **will be released** by the Prime Minister of India at the **Maritime India Summit in November 2020**.
- It will **supersede the Sagarmala initiative** and aims to boost waterways, give a **fillip to the shipbuilding industry** and **encourage cruise tourism in India**

Policy Initiatives and Development Projects:

- **Maritime Development Fund:** A Rs. 25,000-crore fund, which will provide low cost, long-tenure financing to the sector with the Centre contributing Rs. 2,500 crore over seven years.
- **Port Regulatory Authority:** A pan-India port authority will be set up under the new Indian Ports Act (to replace the old Indian Ports Act 1908) for enabling oversight across major and non-major ports, enhance institutional coverage for ports and provide for structured growth of the ports sector to boost investor confidence.
- **Eastern Waterways Connectivity Transport Grid project:** It will aim to develop regional connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.
- **Riverine Development Fund:** Calls for extending low cost, long-term financing for inland vessels with the support of a Riverine Development Fund (RDF) and for extending the coverage of the tonnage tax scheme (applicable to ocean-going ships and dredgers) to inland vessels also to enhance the availability of such vessels.
- **Rationalization of Port Charges:** It will make them more competitive, besides doing away with all hidden charges levied by ship liners to bring in more transparency.
- **Promotion of Water Transport:** For decongestion of urban areas, and developing waterways as an alternative means of urban transport.

#KRISHNA AND GODAVARI RIVER DISPUTE

- The Centre will determine the jurisdictions of the **Krishna and Godavari river management boards (KRMB and GRMB)**, **Union Jal Shakti Ministry (MoJS)** announced at the **Apex Council Meeting**.
- It has been constituted by the Central Government under the provisions of **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (APRA), 2014**.
- It supervises the functioning of the Godavari River Management Board and Krishna River Management Board.
- **KRMB & GRMB** are autonomous bodies established as per **APRA-2014** under the administrative control of MoJS to manage and regulate the Waters of Krishna and Godavari Basin respectively in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- It **comprises the Union Jal Shakti Minister and the Chief Ministers of** Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

APEX COUNCIL MEETING

- It was the **second** meeting since **2016**.
- **Aim:** To resolve the conflict between the two States over executing irrigation projects and sharing water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING

- **Jurisdiction** of the KRMB and GRMB. Even after six years of their formation, their jurisdiction is still not notified because both the states have differing opinions on this issue.
- Submission of **Detailed Project Reports (DPR)** of new projects in river basins by the two governments for appraisal and sanction by the **Apex Council**.
 - As per the APRA-2014, both KRMB and GRMB should technically appraise and clear them.
- Establishing a **mechanism** to determine the share of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the Krishna and Godavari waters.
- **Shifting the headquarters** of the Krishna River Management Board to Andhra Pradesh as mandated by APRA-2014.

Decisions: The Centre will go ahead with notifying the jurisdiction of both KRMB & GRMB because as per the **APRA- 2014**, no consensus is needed.

- Both States agreed to submit the DPRs of all the projects.
- With regards to sharing of river waters, the Telangana Chief Minister agreed to withdraw the case filed in Supreme Court, to allow the Centre to refer water sharing issues to the **Krishna Godavari tribunal**.

Godavari River

- **Source:** Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra and flows for a length of about 1465 km before outfalling into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Drainage Basin:** The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Union territory of Puducherry.
- **Tributaries:** Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.

Krishna River

- **Source:** It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra. It is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- **Drainage:** It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Tributaries:** Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.

INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTE

Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of **inter-state water disputes**.

- Under this, Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.
- The Parliament has enacted the two laws, the **River Boards Act (1956)** and the **Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)**.
- The **River Boards Act** provides for the **establishment of river boards** by the Central government for the regulation and development of Inter-state River and river valleys.
- A River Board is established on the request of state governments concerned to advise them.
- The **Inter-State Water Disputes Act** empowers the Central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley.
- The decision of the tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute. Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act.

#INAUGURATION OF 44 BRIDGES MID IND-CHINA TENSIONS

- On October 12, 2020, **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **44 bridges** that were built by the **Border Road Organization**.
- The minister also laid a foundation stone of **Nechiphu tunnel** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Out of the 44 projects eight are in Ladakh region at various locations. These new bridges are located in **Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Out of the **44 bridges, eight are in Ladakh, 10 in Jammu and Kashmir, two in Himachal Pradesh, four in Punjab, eight each in Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh, and four in Sikkim**.
- Eight bridges in Ladakh, that were built at a cost of 45 Crore are on four strategically important roads close to **Line of Control on West and Line of Actual Control on East** in Ladakh region.
- The bridges built in a record time are not just strategically important but also key in socio economic Development of Ladakh region.

- As the situation along **India's borders with Pakistan and China**, **Rajnath Singh said**, all are well aware of the situation created along our northern and eastern borders and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about **7,000 km** with these countries, where the tension remains.

BORDER ROAD ORGANIZATION

- The Border Roads Organization (BRO)** develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. BRO maintains operations in **twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)**, and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. The BRO was **formed on 7 May 1960**. It is headquartered in **New Delhi**. Currently the **Director General** of BRO is Lt. Gen Harpal Singh

ROLE OF BORDER ROAD ORGANIZATION

- To Develop & Maintain the Operational Road Infrastructure in the Border Areas.**
- To Contribute to the Socio-Economic Development of the Border States.**
- To Develop & Maintain Roads to Keep Line of Control through in Original sectors.**
- To Execute Additional Tasks as laid down by the Govt Contributing to the War Effort.**

INDIA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

- India has currently developed the border infrastructure along **Line of Actual Control** in order to **keep a check on Chinese activities** in the region.
- The Chinese are illegally establishing bases and carrying out developmental activities. These are against the 1993 and 1996 agreements signed by the countries.
- In June 2020, India allocated **10% funds of the Border Area Development Programme** to develop infrastructure along Line of Actual Control. Under the programme, **Rs 784 crores was allocated**.
- The fund is being used to develop strategically important towns and villages in the border areas.
- The inauguration of 44 bridges** will improve connectivity in the far-flung areas of western, northern and north-eastern sectors, and fulfill the aspirations of local people. They would also meet the transport and logistics requirements of the armed forces throughout the year.

BORDER AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- It was launched by **the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1986-87**. It was initiated during the **Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90)**. BRO had completed the **construction of 28 major bridges** last year, while **102 major bridges are under construction**, of which 54 have already been completed.
- The BRO** has also **completed construction of 60 bailey bridges** to meet immediate requirements of the armed forces and border population.
- The BRO's budget was nearly stagnant at Rs 4,000 crore between 2009 and 2015, before jumping to Rs 5,400 crore in 2017-18.
- It has now reached Rs 11,000 crore for the 2020-21 fiscal. The states that are covered under the plan are Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Punjab, Tripura, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.



The **Defence minister** also laid the foundation stone for the **Nechiphu tunnel** on the road to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The 450-metre-long, two-lane tunnel would ensure all-weather connectivity across Nechiphu Pass besides providing a safe and secure passage through accident-prone areas. The tunnel, once constructed, will connect **Tezpur in Assam**, which is the logistics base of the Army, to **Tenga Valley** where one of the forward divisions of the Army is located. Meanwhile there are three passes — **Bomdilla, Nechiphu and Sela**. "Nechiphu being the boundary between the high humidity Brahmaputra plains and the mountains of Arunachal Pradesh is known to be perennially foggy and prone to landslides. The tunnel will provide a direct link between the Tenga Valley and plains of Tezpur". Tawang lies further ahead to Tenga Valley at a distance of around 200 km and are connected by inhospitable roads.

#HAR GHAR JAL'S FIRST STATE: GOA

- Recently, Goa has become the first '**Har Ghar Jal**' State in the country as it successfully provided **100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** in the **rural areas** covering **2.30 lakh rural households**.
- **Early Achiever:** State's commitment and brisk efforts have ensured advancement and achievement of targets well **before time, i.e. 2024 at national level**.
- **Annual Action Plan:** Goa prepared the State's Annual Action Plan (AAP) to provide **100% Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** in rural areas by **2021**.
- Goa utilized the benefits of the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** which aims to improve the quality of life and bring 'ease-of-living' to rural communities.
- Accordingly, fund allocation from the Union to Goa in 2020-21 has been increased to Rs. 12.40 Crore for the plan.
- **Convergence of Schemes:** The State explored through convergence of various programmes like the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**, **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)**, **15th Finance Commission** for rural local bodies, etc. for strengthening of drinking water sources, water supply, grey water (any domestic wastewater excluding sewage) treatment & re-use and operation & maintenance.
- **Water Testing Facilities:** The State is in process of getting **14 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)** accredited **water quality testing laboratories**.
- Jal Jeevan Mission mandates **training 5 persons in every village especially women** to be trained in using **Field Test Kits**, so that water can be tested in the villages.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced during his Independence Day speech that the government will launch **Jal Jeevan Mission** to bring piped water supply to every house. He also urged the people to come forward and contribute in conserving water resources. PM Modi said that the government will spend more than **Rs. 3.5 Lakh crore** in coming years under the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**. Jal Jeevan Mission will work under the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**. The Major objective of **Jal Jeevan Mission** is to provide **piped water supply (Har Ghar Jal)** to all rural and urban households by 2024. It also aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture. According to the data published in various reports, about half of the country's households don't have access to piped water supply. It is an **urgent requirement of water conservation** in the country because of the decreasing amount of groundwater level. Therefore, **Jal Jeevan Mission** will focus on integrated demand and **supply management of water at the local level**.

OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES

In view of its ambitious target to provide tap-water connections to all rural households by 2024, the government will now focus on source sustainability through river rejuvenation and water harvesting works under the MGNREGA scheme. The huge workforce employed under the MGNREGA has enabled the government to introduce water conservation as a project under the Act.

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti on 5 June 2015 launched nationwide Jal Kranti Abhiyan (campaign) from Jaipur, Rajasthan. The aim is to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. The objectives of the Abhiyan is to strengthen grass root involvement of all stake-holders including Panchayati raj institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes like Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).

National Water Mission is one the eight missions of the Government of India which was launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) for combating the threats of global warming. The main features of the National Water Mission includes Review of National Water Policy, Research and studies on all aspects related to impact of climate change on water resources including quality aspects of water resources, Expedited implementation of water resources projects particularly the multipurpose projects with carry over storages

CONCLUSION

- Having achieved universal access, the State now plans for a sensor-based **service delivery** monitoring system so as to monitor the functionality of water supply i.e. potable water in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality.
- Goa's achievement is an **example for other States to emulate** and ensure every rural home gets tap connection.
- Especially in these times of **Covid-19** pandemic, it is all the more imperative to have assured safe water supply within households.
- This silent revolution happening in rural India in terms of household tap water connections is a work in progress for a '**New India**'.

#NAVAL EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIA AND SRILANKA

- The 8th edition of annual India - Sri Lanka bilateral naval maritime exercise, SLINEX-20 will be held at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 October 2020.
- The 7th edition of SLINEX was conducted off Visakhapatnam in September 2019. SLINEX series of bilateral maritime exercises were initiated in 2005.
- Aim:
 - SLINEX aims to enhance interoperability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
 - It exemplifies the deep engagement between India and Sri Lanka which has strengthened mutual cooperation in the maritime domain.

The 2020 Exercise:

- In SLINEX-20, the Indian Navy will be represented by indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and Kiltanunder.
- Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and Chetak helicopters and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft will also be participating.
- The Sri Lanka Navy will be represented by SLN Ships Sayura (Offshore Patrol Vessel) and Gajabahu (Training Ship).
- The maritime exercise will also showcase capabilities of India's indigenously constructed naval ships and aircraft.
- Surface and anti-air exercises including weapon firing, seamanship evolutions, manoeuvres and cross deck flying operations are planned during the exercise, which will further enhance the high degree of interoperability already established between the two friendly navies.
- **Covid Impact:** The exercise is being conducted in a non-contact 'at-sea-only' format in the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Outcome:** The exercise plays a significant role in strengthening bilateral ties and also reiterating India's policy of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'.

Important Bilateral and Multilateral Defence Exercises

Indra	India-Russia Naval Exercise
Malabar	US-India-Japan Naval Exercise

Varuna	France and India Naval Exercise
Simbex	India and Republic of Singapore Naval Exercise
Ibsamar	India, Brazil and South Africa Naval Exercise
Konkan	India and Britain Naval Exercise
Ausindex	India and Australia Naval Exercise
Naseem Al-Bahr	India-Oman Naval Exercise

#AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME

- The **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has launched **Ayushman Sahakar**, a scheme to assist cooperatives in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- Formulated By: National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
 - NCDC was set up under an Act of Parliament in 1963 for promotion and development of cooperatives.
 - It functions under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
 - Recent initiatives include **Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel** (Youth-focussed), **Sahakar Mitra** (Internship Programme), etc.

Features:

- NCDC would extend term loans to prospective cooperatives to the tune of Rs.10,000 crore in the coming years.
- Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund.
- The scheme covers establishment, modernization, expansion, repairs, renovation of hospital and healthcare and education infrastructure.
- NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.
- The scheme also provides working capital and margin money to meet operational requirements.
- Further, the scheme provides interest subvention of 1% to women majority cooperatives.

Significance:

- It has a **comprehensive approach**-hospitals, healthcare, medical education, nursing education, paramedical education, health insurance and holistic health systems such as **AYUSH**.
- The **Covid-19 pandemic** has brought into focus the **requirement of creation of more facilities**.
- There are about 52 hospitals across the country run by cooperatives. They have cumulative bed strength of more than 5,000. The scheme would give a **boost to provision of healthcare services by cooperatives**.
- The scheme **aligns itself with the focus of the National Health Policy, 2017**, covering the health systems in all their dimensions- investments in health, organization of healthcare services, access to technologies, development of human resources, encouragement of medical pluralism, affordable health care to farmers etc.
- It is **in line with the National Digital Health Mission** and would bring transformation in rural areas.
- Cooperatives have a strong presence in rural areas, thus, cooperatives utilizing the scheme would revolutionize the way healthcare delivery takes place in rural areas.

Cooperatives

Definition

According to the **International Labour Organisation (ILO)**, a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.

Related Provisions of Indian Constitution:

The **Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011** added a new **Part IXB** right after Part IXA (Municipals) regarding the cooperatives working in India.

The word “cooperatives” was added after “unions and associations” in **Article 19(1)(c) under Part III of the Constitution**. This enables all the citizens to form cooperatives by giving it the status of fundamental right of citizens. A new **Article 43B** was added in the **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)** regarding the “promotion of cooperative societies”.

According to the September 2020 **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** data, economic recovery after the lockdown has **thrown up some paradoxes for India**. However, **China has recorded growth** for the consecutive third quarter (July-September 2020).

CMIE is a **leading business information company**. It was established in 1976, primarily as an independent think tank.

Employment:

- The CMIE data shows that there is a revival in employment amid a fall in **labour force participation**. The **labour force participation rate (LFPR)** is **defined** as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- However, usually when more people find jobs a greater number should have come in looking for jobs.

- The unusual trend can be explained by a **rural-urban disaggregation of the data**. Rural India is seeing an increase in jobs due to post harvest activity whereas employment in urban India is decreasing.
- Also, better quality and higher paying jobs in urban areas are being lost and substituted by lower-paid rural jobs.
- This phenomenon points to the fact that a **reversal of migration back to the cities is not happening** to the extent that it should have.

Inflation:

- The supply side shock due to lockdown has led to an increase in **headline inflation** mainly driven by increase in food prices.

Headline inflation is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices.

- However, **the unexpected trend is the rise in core inflation** i.e. non-food, non fuel inflation, that too during a period when growth is set to register a record contraction.

Core inflation is the change in the costs of goods and services but does not include those from the food and energy sectors.

- **Ideally, the collapse in demand** due to lockdown **should have triggered a drop in core inflation**.

Consumer Confidence:

- Another unexpected development is evident in the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)'s latest consumer confidence survey**.

The central bank's '**current situation index**' fell to an all-time low in September, 2020 even as its 'forward-looking surveys' show that consumer confidence for the year 2020-21 has improved.

- **Current situation index** is a sub index that measures overall consumer sentiment regarding the present economic situation.
- So even as the current situation of households has been progressively worsening, the survey points to households reporting better prospects for the future.

Growth:

- According to the recent **IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) report**, Indian economy is going to be the **worst affected** among the comparative countries like China, U.S.A., Pakistan and Brazil.
- India is not only going to be worst-affected in the short term but also in the medium term.
- The IMF has also **doubled** the rate of **Gross Domestic Production (GDP)** contraction for India. However, globally the growth has become better.

China's Economic Performance:

- China's economic growth continued to gain momentum in the third quarter, with the GDP expanding 4.9% from a year earlier in the July-September, 2020 period.
- China is witnessing an increase in tourism; growth in industrial production and exports that has generated revenue and jobs for millions Chinese people. However, Consumption is yet to regain its normal vigour in China.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecasted that China's economy will expand by 1.9 % in 2020, making it the only major economy to register growth in a pandemic-hit year.
- The economic rebound follows China's broad return to normalcy in early months of 2020, following sweeping Covid-19 curbs including stringent lockdowns, extensive contact tracing, and restrictions on international travel through the first half of the year.

#COVIRAP COVID-19 TESTING

- Recently, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a new low-cost **Covid-19** diagnostic method named **COVIRAP**, developed by the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)**, Kharagpur.

Working of COVIRAP:

- COVIRAP has an automated pre-programmable temperature control unit, a special detection unit on genomic analysis, and a customised smartphone app for results.
- The machine has an **isothermal nucleic acid amplification method**, which did away with the need for a **thermocycler**.
 - **Isothermal amplification of nucleic acids** is a process that rapidly and efficiently accumulates **nucleic acid sequences** at constant temperature. The Isothermal Amplification Techniques have been developed as **alternatives to Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)**.
 - **Thermocyclers** are instruments used to **amplify DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and RNA (ribonucleic acid) samples** by the **polymerase chain reaction**.
- Once the sample is processed in the machine after being mixed with solutions developed by the IIT team, treated paper strips (similar to the pregnancy strips) are dipped into it, and the emergence of coloured lines will depict the presence of the virus.

Benefit of COVIRAP Process:

- **Economic:** It is a cheaper process, its machine costs less than Rs. 5,000 and the test kits would each cost about Rs. 500.
- **Quicker:** The test is completed within an hour while RT-PCR test (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) takes 3-4 hours for testing the sample.
- **Simpler to Handle:** The portable test unit that can be handled by unskilled operators outside the lab environment. It is also better than the FELUDA test because the FELUDA employs a gene editing technology called CRISPR-cas9, which requires a lab testing environment.

-
- **Reusable:** The same unit can be used for a large number of tests on replacement of the paper cartridge after each test.
- **Efficient:** This assay (testing) holds the capability of detecting extremely low levels of viral loads compared to any other method based on similar principles of testing. This means that very early stages of infection can be detected, thereby isolating the patient and arresting the uncontrolled spread of infection in the community via asymptomatic patients.
- **High Accuracy:** It correctly detected 108 out of the 115 positive samples identified by an RT-PCR machine, and 83 out of 85 negative samples, meaning that it has a 94% sensitivity and 98% specificity in comparison to RT-PCR (i.e lower than RT-PCR).
- **Other Usage:** The COVIRAP testing machine can also perform tests other than Covid-19. It can be used in influenza, malaria, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, TB etc, which are under the category of isothermal nucleic acid-based tests.

RT-PCR Test: Kary Mullis, the American biochemist invented the PCR technique. He was awarded the **Nobel Prize** for Chemistry in 1993. Under this, **copies of a segment of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)** are created using an enzyme called Polymerase. The ‘chain reaction’ signifies how the DNA fragments are copied, exponentially — one is copied into two, the two are copied into four, and so on. A fluorescent **DNA binding dye called the “probe” is added to DNA**, which shows the presence of the virus on a **fluorometer**. Since coronavirus is made of **RNA (ribonucleic acid)**, therefore to detect coronavirus, **RNA is converted into DNA** using a technique called reverse transcription. A ‘reverse transcriptase’ enzyme converts the RNA into DNA. Copies of the DNA are then made and amplified.

#ATAL TUNNEL (WORLD'S LONGEST HIGHWAY TUNNEL)

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated **Atal Tunnel** on **3rd October 2020**. It is a highway tunnel built under the **Rohtang Pass** in the **eastern Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas** on the **Leh-Manali Highway in Himachal Pradesh, India**.
- It is named after former Indian Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. The 9.02 km-long-tunnel, built by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**, is the world's longest highway tunnel and connects **Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley**.
- It provides all-weather connectivity to the landlocked valley of Lahaul-Spiti, which remains cut-off for nearly six months in a year as the **Rohtang Pass** is usually snow-bound between November and April.
- Before the tunnel construction, the Lahaul Valley used to remain closed for vehicular movement due to bad weather conditions.

In 2019, The Union Cabinet decided to name the tunnel as '**Atal Tunnel**' to honour former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** for his contributions. The decision was taken in 2000 when he was the Prime Minister.

ECONOMIC LOSS IN THE PROJECT

- PM Modi accused the **Congress-led previous governments** of not paying heed to border development projects, thereby compromising the nation's security interests.
- In 2002, **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** laid the foundation stone for the approach road of this tunnel

and after his government was changed, it seemed that work on this tunnel was forgotten.

- The **delay by the Congress** not just causes inconvenience to people but the country also has to bear the **loss on economic front**.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE "ATAL TUNNEL"

- **All Year Connectivity:** The Atal tunnel is the first step towards all-year connectivity to Ladakh. The tunnel has the potential to link Ladakh to Manali and Chandigarh throughout the year, as it would bypass Rohtang Pass, which is snowed in through the winter months.
- **Strategic:** The tunnel provides a strategic advantage to the country's armed forces by providing year-long connectivity to border areas. It will save an entire day for troops and supplies as they move towards forward posts.
- **Avail Basic Facilities:** The residents of Ladakh who had to face immense hardship to avail even basic facilities like healthcare and food supplies will now be able to reach Manali and connect with the rest of the country using this new tunnel. Essential commodities like petrol and vegetable supplies would also likely be available throughout the year.
- **Boon for Farmers:** The drop in travel time will help many, especially farmers whose precious crops like peas and potatoes will no longer rot in trucks before reaching the market.
- **Boost to Tourism:** Livelihoods in the tourism sector of the residents in Lahaul Valley and Ladakh would get a boost.

SAFETY MEASURES IN TUNNEL

The tunnel includes an **Emergency escape tunnel**. It has telephones every 150 metres, emergency exit every 500 metres and fire hydrant every 60 metres. The other safety features of the tunnel are as follows:

- Auto-incident Detection system with CCTV cameras at every 250 meters
- Evacuation lighting at every 25 meters
- Air Quality monitoring at every 60 meters
- Fire rated dampers at every 50 meters
- Broadcasting systems throughout the tunnel

CHALLENGES IN THE PROJECT

- The most challenging task was to continue the **excavation during heavy snowfall in winter**. Excavation for tunneling was done from both ends.
- However, as **Rohtang pass** closes during the winter, the **north portal was not accessible during winter** and the excavation was being done only from the south portal in winters.
- Only about one-fourth of the entire tunnel was excavated from the north end and three-fourths was excavated from the south end.

- There were more than 46 avalanche sites on approaches to the tunnel. Other challenges to the progress of the tunnel included **difficulties in disposing of excavated rock and soil, heavy ingress of water** that required constant dewatering, costlier treatment and slowed the progress of excavation.

#INS KAVARATTI INDUCTED IN NAVY

➤ Recently, INS Kavaratti has been formally inducted into the Indian Navy at the **Naval Dockyard in Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Visakhapatnam**.

- It is **named after the capital of the Lakshadweep group of islands**.
- It is the **last of the four indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes** built under Project 28 (Kamorta class), by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The ship is regarded as **one of the most potent ASW stealth corvettes** to have been constructed in India as it joins three other ships of the same class INS Kamorta, INS Kadmat and INS Kiltan, at the ENC.
 - Its induction is a game-changer in the eastern seaboard, especially with the **Chinese submarines trying to increase their presence in the Indian Ocean**.
- It has **enhanced stealth features** resulting in reduced Radar Cross Section (RCS) achieved by the superstructure along with optimally sloped surfaces.
 - INS Kavaratti and INS Kiltan are the **first two major warships** in the country to have the unique feature of the **superstructure made of carbon fibre composite material**.
- It has **high indigenous content** with the **state-of-the-art equipment** and systems to fight in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.
 - Some of the major equipment/ systems developed indigenously include **Combat Management System, Torpedo Tube Launchers and Infra-Red Signature Suppression System**, etc.
 - The high level of indigenisation incorporated in the production accentuates the objectives of **Atmanirbhav Bharat Initiative**.
- The ship is the **reincarnation of the erstwhile Arnala Class missile corvette** of the same name, INS Kavaratti-P 80, a ship that played an important role in the **liberation of Bangladesh in 1971**.

#ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER DISPUTE

- **Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute** recently came into the limelight following a **violent clash between the residents of these two states** in the border area.
- The recent clash occurred on October 17, 2020 when the **residents of Lailapur village in Cachar district of Assam collided with the locals of Kolasib district of Mizoram**. Earlier on October 9, a similar kind of clash took place at the **border area between 'Karamp-imganj' district of Assam and Mamit district of Mizoram**.
- The Assam-Mizoram Border conflict is not a new one but the dispute has persisted for long. Both

the states share a 164.6 km inter-state border.

- Three Assam districts, namely, **Cachar, Hailakandi and Karamp-imganj** share their border with three Mizoram districts including **Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl**.

RECENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO STATES

- As per Mizoram's civil society groups, the **locals of Lailapur village, Cachar district, Assam** have pelted stones on the on-duty personnel of **Mizoram Reserve Battalion**.
- On the other hand, these charges have been refuted by the Police Officers of Assam. They state that a group of unidentified miscreants from Vairengte, **Kolasib district of Mizoram** burnt shops and hutments along the **National Highway-306 (earlier NH-54) in Lailapur**.
- Many believe that the incident is the outcome of the demolition of the makeshift hut which was used by the local volunteers near **Saihapui V**.
- The village is located near to **Vairengte (Mizoram) and adjacent to Karamp-imganj (Assam)**.
- Amid the pandemic, these local volunteers were keeping a check on the movement of the people. The incident as described by the Mizoram civil society groups is a fight between illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.
- They have not described it as Assam vs Mizoram heat up. {**Importance of NH-306:** The highway is considered to be the **lifeline of Mizoram**, connecting it with the **rest of India through Silchar, Assam**}.

BACKGROUND OF ASSAM-MIZORAM BORDER DISPUTE

- The **boundary issue** between present-day **Assam and Mizoram** dates back to the colonial era when inner lines were demarcated according to the **administrative needs of British Raj**. The issue could not be settled once and for all when the state was created in **independent India**. The result is both states continue to have a differing perception of the border.
- Mizoram was granted statehood in 1987 by the State of Mizoram Act, 1986**. Assam became a **constituent state of India in 1950** and lost much of its territory to new states that emerged from within its borders between the early 1960s and the early 1970s. The **Assam-Mizoram dispute** stems from a **notification of 1875** that differentiated **Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar**, and another of **1933** that demarcates a **boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur**.
- During colonial times, **Mizoram was known as Lushai Hills**, a district of Assam. Mizoram believes the boundary should be demarcated on the basis of the 1875 notification, which is derived from the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) Act, 1873**.
- Mizo leaders have argued in the past against the demarcation notified in 1933 because Mizo society was not consulted.
- The **Assam government follows the 1933 demarcation**, and that is the point of conflict. According to an agreement between the governments of Assam and Mizoram, the **status quo should be maintained in no man's land in the border area**.
- In the Northeast's complex boundary equations, clashes between Assam and Mizoram residents are less frequent than they are between other neighboring states of Assam, like with Nagaland.
- The border between **Mizoram and Assam** is an imaginary line that changes with the naturally **occurring obstacles of rivers, hills, valleys and forests**.
- People of **Assam and Mizoram** have attributed the border conflicts to the differences over this not-so-clear boundary. People living in the border areas often cross over to the other side as they are not fully aware of the border demarcation.

OTHER BOUNDARY ISSUES IN NORTH-EAST

- During British rule, **Assam included present-day Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya besides Mizoram**, which became separate states one by one. Currently, **Assam has boundary problems with each of them**.

ASSAM-NAGALAND

- Nagaland shares a 500-km boundary with Assam.** It achieved statehood in December 1963 and was formed out of the **Naga Hills district of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh (then North-East Frontier Agency)**. Violent clashes and armed conflicts, marked by killings, have occurred on the **Assam-Nagaland border** since 1965. The **boundary dispute** is in the **Supreme Court**.

ASSAM-ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- Both states have a **boundary of over 800 km**. Arunachal Pradesh was **granted statehood** by the **State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986 in 1987**. Clashes were first reported in 1992 and since then, there have been several accusations of illegal encroachment from both sides, and intermittent clashes. **This boundary issue** is also being heard by the **Supreme Court**.

ASSAM-MEGHALAYA

- The 884-km boundary between the two states** also witnesses flare-ups. Meghalaya came into existence as an autonomous state within the state of Assam **in April 1970 comprising the United Khasi & Jaintia Hills and the Garo Hills districts**. In 1972, it got statehood. As per Meghalaya government statements, today **there are 12 areas of dispute between the two states**.

INDIA-CHINA DISPUTE AT LAC

- Relations between **India and China** have been worsening over the past few months, and the two world powers are facing off against each other along their disputed border in the Himalayan region.

CAUSE OF CONFLICT

- The root cause lies in an ill-defined, long border that both countries dispute. Rivers, lakes and snowcaps along the frontier mean the line can shift, bringing soldiers face to face at many points, sometimes leading to confrontation.
- The two nations are also competing to build infrastructure** along the border, which is also known as the Line of Actual Control. India's construction of a new road to a high-altitude air base is seen as one of the main triggers for a clash with Chinese troops in June that left at least **20 Indian soldiers dead**.
- LAC:** The LAC is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km. It is divided into three sectors: **the eastern sector which spans Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, the middle sector in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the western sector in Ladakh**.