



F-11 1<sup>ST</sup>FLOOR,USMAN COMPLEX, BATLA HOUSE CHOWK,JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA

M: +919910410042, +918588058088, +919810196093

Website: [www.iasmentor.weebly.com](http://www.iasmentor.weebly.com), e-mail: [iasmentor87@gmail.com](mailto:iasmentor87@gmail.com)

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**(1<sup>st</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018)**



IAS MENTOR is education center for Academic & Competitive examination. IAS MENTOR offers IAS/PCS Exam preparation classes.

**Mission**

To bring Socio-Economic justice through most powerful weapon '**EDUCATION**'

**Description**

IAS MENTOR is an education center founded by MR.SAHBAN ALI, Advocate, Ex. Founding Member & Director of Education360.Pvt .Ltd, one of the best teachers & mentors for CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS- I.A.S./P.C.S. & his brother SUBHAN ALI selected for I.E.S Interview (UPSC), selected in RRB as Senior Section Engineer, Selected in DDA , M.Tech (IIT Delhi), B.Tech. (Civil) JMI, New Delhi.

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Address: F-11 Usman Complex, Batla House Chowk, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi

Contact No.: 09910410042, 08588058088

[www.iasmentor.weebly.com](http://www.iasmentor.weebly.com)

## 1st July 2018 Celebrated As 'GST Day', To Commemorate The First Year Of The Unprecedented Reform Of Indian Taxation

- The Constitution **(122nd Amendment) Bill, 2014** was introduced in the Parliament on 19 December 2014. It was enacted as **Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016**.
- Goods and Service Tax (GST) is an indirect tax (or consumption tax) five tax slabs 0%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- Petroleum products, alcoholic drinks, electricity, and real estate are taxed separately by the individual state.

The tax rates, rules and regulations are governed by the GST Council which comprises finance ministers of centre and all the states.

### **GST Council Constitution**

#### **Article 279A**

Designated Personnel, who will form the GST Council together:-

- CHAIRMAN - Union Finance Minister
- MEMBER of council- Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance
- ONE MEMBER from each state who is Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister and anyone of them will be VICE CHAIRMAN of the GST Council who will be mutually elected by them.

#### **NOTE**

- The **Secretary of Revenue Department** will work as **EX-Officio Secretary to the GST Council**,
- The **Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs** - **permanent invitee without voting rights**.

#### **e-Way Bill**

- An e-Way Bill is an electronic permit for shipping goods similar to a waybill. It was made mandatory for inter-state transport of goods from 1st June 2018. It is required to be generated for every inter-state movement of goods beyond 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) and the threshold limit of 50,000

**The GSTN software** is developed by Infosys Technologies and IT network is maintained by the NIC. "Goods and Services Tax" Network (GSTN) is a nonprofit organisation formed for creating sophisticated network, accessible to stakeholders, government and taxpayers to access information from on a single source (portal). The portal is accessible to the Tax authorities for tracking down every transaction, while taxpayers have the ability of connect for their tax returns.

## What is “CRISPR”

“CRISPR” (pronounced “crisper”) stands for **Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats**, which are the hallmark of a bacterial defense system that forms the basis for **CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing technology**. In the field of genome engineering, the term “CRISPR” or “CRISPR-Cas9” is often used loosely to refer to the various CRISPR-Cas9 and -CPF1, (and other) systems that can be programmed to target specific stretches of genetic code and to edit DNA at precise locations, as well as for other purposes, such as for new diagnostic tools. **With these systems, researchers can permanently modify genes in living cells and organisms and, in the future, may make it possible to correct mutations at precise locations in the human genome in order to treat genetic causes of disease.**

### India Gets Its 37th World UNESCO World Heritage Site

- **37th site: Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai.** Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. **India now has overall 37 World Heritage Inscriptions with 29 Cultural, 07 Natural and 01 Mixed sites.**
- These sites are officially recognised by the UN and the **United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation**, also known as UNESCO

#### Cultural (29)

- [Agra Fort \(1983\)](#)
- [Ajanta Caves \(1983\)](#)
- [Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar \(2016\)](#)
- [Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi \(1989\)](#)
- [Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park \(2004\)](#)
- [Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus \(formerly Victoria Terminus\) \(2004\)](#)
- [Churches and Convents of Goa \(1986\)](#)
- [Elephanta Caves \(1987\)](#)
- [Ellora Caves \(1983\)](#)
- [Fatehpur Sikri \(1986\)](#)
- [Great Living Chola Temples \(1987,2004\)](#)
- [Group of Monuments at Hampi \(1986\)](#)
- [Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram \(1984\)](#)
- [Group of Monuments at Pattadakal \(1987\)](#)
- [Hill Forts of Rajasthan \(2013\)](#)
- [Historic City of Ahmadabad \(2017\)](#)
- [Humayun's Tomb, Delhi \(1993\)](#)
- [Khajuraho Group of Monuments \(1986\)](#)
- [Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhi Gaya \(2002\)](#)
- [Mountain Railways of India \(1999,2005,2008\)](#)
- [Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi \(1993\)](#)

- [Rani-ki-Vav \(the Queen's Stepwell\) at Patan, Gujarat \(2014\)](#)
- [Red Fort Complex \(2007\)](#)
- [Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka \(2003\)](#)
- [Sun Temple, Konârak \(1984\)](#)
- [Taj Mahal \(1983\)](#)
- [The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement \(2016\)](#)
- [The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur \(2010\)](#)
- [Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai \(2018\)](#)

#### Natural (7)

- [Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area \(2014\)](#)
- [Kaziranga National Park \(1985\)](#)
- [Keoladeo National Park \(1985\)](#)
- [Manas Wildlife Sanctuary \(1985\)](#)
- [Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks \(1988,2005\)](#)
- [Sundarbans National Park \(1987\)](#)
- [Western Ghats \(2012\)](#)

#### Mixed (1)

- [Khangchendzonga National Park \(2016\)](#)

## Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)

### What is RIMES?

RIMES was established on 30 April 2009 to provide user-relevant early warning services to its Member States and others.

It is a UN registered international and inter-governmental institution.

It is owned and managed by its 48 members and collaborating states for building capacities in the generation and application of user-relevant early warning information.

## AMCDRR 2018

### (Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018)

**Context:** The Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2018 (AMCDRR 2018) will be held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**. It is convened by the UN Office for DRR (UNISDR) and the Government of Mongolia.

The conference will represent a key milestone for reflection on three years into the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**. Specifically, the conference will enable governments and stakeholders to review progress made against the commitments at the AMCDRR 2016, i.e. **the New Delhi Declaration, the Asia Regional Plan, and ten stakeholder voluntary action statements**. Theme of the AMCDRR 2018: **'Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development'**.

### What is AMCDRR?

Established in 2005, AMCDRR is a biennial conference jointly organized by different Asian countries and the UNISDR.

**India hosted the second AMCDRR in New Delhi in 2007.**

### About Sendai Framework:

The "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" was adopted during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in **Sendai, Japan** in March, 2015.

**Key features of the Sendai framework:**

- It is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, with seven targets and four priorities for action.
- It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR).
- The Framework is for 15-year. It is a **voluntary and non-binding agreement** which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The new Framework is the successor instrument to the **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.**

### **Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI)**

The Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) is an independent banking industry watchdog that **protects consumers of banking services in India.**

The board oversee compliance with the “Code of Bank’s Commitment to Customers”. It is an independent and autonomous body, registered as a separate society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 18 February 2006.

- The Reserve Bank of India extended financial support to the Board, meeting its expenses for the first five years.
- BCSBI has in collaboration with the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA), evolved two codes – **Code of Bank’s Commitment to Customers and the Code of Bank’s Commitment to Micro and Small Enterprises** – which set minimum standards of banking practices for member banks to follow when they are dealing with individual customers and micro and small enterprises.

### **Census of India**

The decennial Census of India has been conducted 15 times, As of 2011. While it has been conducted every 10 years, beginning in 1872, the first complete census was taken in the year 1881. Post 1949, it has been conducted by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.**

### **Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)-**

- A Programmes aimed at creating awareness among voters by ECI.

## Nipah virus

- Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging **ZOONOSIS**, that is, a disease transmitted from animals to humans.
- The natural host of the virus are fruit bats

When was it first reported?

- It was first identified in 1998 at Kampung Sungai Nipah village, Malaysia. The virus is named after this village.

What are the symptoms in humans?

- The symptoms of Nipah are similar to that of influenza: fever, muscle pain, and respiratory problems. Inflammation of the brain can also cause disorientation.

## Asia Pacific Trade Agreement

### About APTA:

The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously named the **Bangkok Agreement**, was signed in 1975 as an initiative of ESCAP (UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC).

- The six member countries are Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Korea and Sri Lanka.
- APTA is the **first plurilateral agreement** among the developing countries in the region to adopt common operational procedures for certification and verification of the origin of goods
- **APTA is the only operational trade agreement linking China and India**

## Kudankulam power plant

- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is situated in Koodankulam in the **Tirunelveli** district Tamil Nadu.
- It is the single largest nuclear power station in India.
- The reactors are pressurised water reactor of Russian design.

## Payments Council of India

The Payments Council of India was formed under the aegis of IAMAI in the year 2013 catering to the needs of the digital payment industry.

### **IAMAI:**

The Internet and Mobile Association of India [IAMAI] is a young and vibrant Association with ambitions of representing the entire gamut of digital businesses in India.

### Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a **statutory body** established by an Act of Parliament (**Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956**). In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board

### National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)

- Article 338A (Chairperson NCST Presents Special Report on “Indira Sagar Polavaram Project” Affected Tribal People to President of India.
- NCST was established by amending Article 338 and inserting a new Article 338A in the Constitution through the Constitution (89th Amendment) Act, 2003.

### United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan

#### (UNMOGIP)

- UNMOGIP, one of the oldest UN mission, was **deployed in January 1949 to supervise the ceasefire** between India and Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Since the Simla Agreement of 1972, India has adopted a **non-recognition policy towards third parties** in their bilateral exchanges with Pakistan over the question regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir

### Global Mobility Summit

- **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners, is organising ‘MOVE: Global Mobility Summit’ in New Delhi..
- **Objectives of the summit:** To help drive Government’s goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration and job growth and also speed up India’s transition to a clean energy economy.

### Cvigil

- It is a **mobile app** launched by the **Election Commission of India** to enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct. It will be operational only where elections are announced.

### Fighter aircraft Tejas

- Tejas is a single-seat, single-jet engine, multirole light fighter.
- It is the smallest and lightest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in the Indian Air Force.
- It has been designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

### Delhi Vs Centre

#### SC observations

- LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
- His discretionary powers are in fact limited to only matters in the State List — public order, police and land — over which the legislative power of the Delhi Legislative Assembly stand excluded under Article 239AA.
- The Supreme Court followed the 1987 Balakrishnan report to conclude that Delhi is not a State.

### Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)

- The cabinet has approved the proposal for expanding the scope of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) by enhancing its capital base to Rs. 10,000 crore and tasking it to mobilise Rs. 1,00,000 crore for **Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022.**

#### Significance of HEFA

- Funding from HEFA is expected to boost infrastructure, especially state-of-the-art laboratories, in key institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).

### Common Services Centers (CSCs)

- CSC SPV, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, has entered into agreement with HDFC Bank to enable its three lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) managing the Common Services centres operate as Banking Correspondents of HDFC Bank.
- Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme. They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.



## Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)

“ Giving a major boost for the farmers’

income, the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for all kharif crops for 2018-19 Season.”

- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs announces MSP for various crops at the beginning of each sowing season based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**. The CACP takes into account demand and supply, the cost of production and price trends in the market among other things when fixing MSPs.

## Recapitalization of RRBs

- This will enable the RRBs to maintain the minimum prescribed **Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%**.
- RRBs are jointly owned by Government of India **50%**, the concerned State Government **15%** and Sponsor Banks **35%**. A Regional Rural Banks Ordinance was promulgated in September 1975, which was replaced by the **Regional Rural Banks Act 1976**.

## World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations.
- It was created in 1967 “to encourage creative activity, to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.”
- It has currently 188 member states, administers 26 international treaties, and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- India is a member of WIPO and party to several treaties administered by WIPO.

## Special Category Status for states-What is Special Category Status?

There is **no provision of SCS in the Constitution**; the Central government extends financial assistance to states that are at a comparative disadvantage against others. The **concept of SCS emerged in 1969** when the **Gadgil formula (that determined Central assistance to states) was approved**.

Some prominent guidelines for getting SCS status:

- Must be economically backward with poor infrastructure.
- The states must be located in hilly and challenging terrain.
- They should have low population density and significant tribal population.
- Should be strategically situated along the borders of neighbouring countries.

### When was the first Special Category status bestowed?

The NDC first accorded SCS in 1969 to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland. Over the years, eight more states were added to the list — Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura and, finally, in 2010, Uttarakhand.

## ICAT releases First BS-VI engine certificate

*“Context: ICAT has completed the first BS-VI certification for a heavy-duty engine model for M/s Volvo Eicher Commercial Vehicle Limited.”*

What are BS norms?

The BS — or Bharat Stage — emission standards are norms instituted by the government to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles. India has been following the European (Euro) emission norms, though with a time-lag of five years.

### Difference between BS-IV and the new BS-VI:

The major difference in standards between the existing BS-IV and the new BS-VI auto fuel norms is the presence of sulphur. The newly introduced fuel is estimated to reduce the amount of sulphur released by 80%, from 50 parts per million to 10 ppm. As per the analysts, the emission of NO<sub>x</sub> (nitrogen oxides) from diesel cars is also expected to reduce by nearly 70% and 25% from cars with petrol engines.

**The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** is a division of **NATRIIP implementation society (NATIS)**, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Government of India.

- ICAT is the first of new world-class centers established under the **National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIIP)** with the main objective of carrying out Research & Development besides extending homologation facilities in the field of Automotive Engineering.

## 4 species added to recovery programme by Wildlife Board National Board for Wildlife

(NBWL) recently added four species into the center’s recovery Programme for critically endangered species. This decision will lead to targeted conservation of these species whose population is on the decline.

- The species are **Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale and Red Panda.**
- **Species already included in the recovery programme:**
- Snow Leopard, Bustard (including Floricans), Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs, Edible Nest Swiftlet, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Vultures, Malabar Civet, Indian Rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp Deer and Jerdon’s Courser.
- **India is a party to the International Whaling commission that is committed to the protection of whales and its habitats in Indian waters.**

**National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** is a **statutory Board** constituted in September 2003 under **Section 5 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**. The NBWL is **chaired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister.**

## National Green Tribunal

- **NGT has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- **Ambit:** The tribunal deals with matters relating to the enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property.

### Members:

Sanctioned strength: currently, **10 expert members and 10 judicial members (although the act allows for up to 20 of each).**

- **Chairman:** is the administrative head of the tribunal, also serves as a judicial member and is **required to be a serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court of India.**
- **Selection:** Members are chosen by a **selection committee** (headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India) that reviews their applications and conducts interviews.
- The Judicial members are chosen from applicants who are serving or retired judges of High Courts.
- Expert members are chosen from applicants who are either serving or retired bureaucrats not below the rank of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India (not below the rank of Principal Secretary if serving under a state government) with a minimum administrative experience of five years in dealing with environmental matters. Or, the expert members must have a doctorate in a related field.

### Other facts:

- The Tribunal is **not bound** by **the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.**
- The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.

### Chief Justice of India as 'Master of Roster'

- 'Master of the Roster' refers to the privilege of the Chief Justice to constitute Benches to hear cases.

### Uttarakhand HC declares animal kingdom a legal entity

- The Uttarakhand high court has declared the entire animal kingdom, including birds and aquatic animals, as a legal entity having rights of a "living person".

## Legal entity?

A legal entity means an **entity which acts like a natural person** but only through a **designated person**, whose acts are processed within the ambit of law. This means the animal kingdom could be represented by a custodian.

The move aims to ensure “greater welfare” of animals.

**Uttarakhand high court in March last year accorded the status of “living entity” to the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, a decision subsequently stayed by the Supreme Court.**

## BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK

### IUCN category II (national park)

- Bhitarkanika National Park is a national park located in **Kendrapara district of Odishain eastern India**. It spreads over 672 km<sup>2</sup> (259 sq mi) and is surrounded by the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It was designated as NATIONAL PARK on 16 September 1998 and as a **Ramsar site on 19 August 2002**.
- **Gahirmatha Beach and Marine Sanctuary lies to the east**, and separates swamp region cover with canopy of mangroves from the Bay of Bengal.
- **Bhitarkanika national park in Odisha has become the largest habitat of the endangered estuarine crocodiles in India** with a record number of 101 nesting sites.
- At least 1698 crocodiles, including albino species, were counted in 2018 along the waterbodies of **Mahanadi delta region**. In 2017, this count was 1682.
- Estuarine crocodiles are also spotted in Sundarban areas of West Bengal.
- **The national park is home to Saltwater crocodile (Crocodylus porosus), Indian python, King cobra, black ibis, darters and many other species of flora and fauna. It hosts a large number of mangrove species, and is the second largest mangrove ecosystem in India.**
- **The national park and wildlife sanctuary is inundated by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, Pathsala.**