

## Part VIII of MCC

### ❖ Context

- The ECI has submitted in SC, in respect of a plea under the court's consideration, that **promises in a manifesto are not enforceable under election law** and it is not within its powers to stop freebies and populist schemes announced by the parties.

### ❖ S Subramaniam Balaji vs Government of Tamil Nadu (2013)

- The SC said that a **promise** contained in an **election manifesto cannot** in itself constitute a **bribe or corrupt practice** as per Section 123 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951.
- The SC also while noting that there is no enactment covering the issue, **asked ECI to frame guidelines** governing the contents of the manifesto.
- The court also recognised that the **ECI's authority to regulate such matters commences only upon the announcement of elections and the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).**

### ❖ What Does the Part Contain?

- It contains the **guidelines political Parties and candidates shall adhere** to while releasing election manifestos for any election to the Parliament or State Legislatures.
- Some of the key guidelines are:
  - Shall **not** contain anything **repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution.**
  - Shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.
  - There can be **no objection** to the promise of such welfare measures framed under DPSP in election manifestos.
  - Reflect the **rationale** for the promises & broadly indicate the **ways and means to meet** the financial requirements for it.
  - Shall **not be released during the prohibitory period, as prescribed under Section 126** of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (silence period of 48 hours before voting day).

## Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

### ❖ Context

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has **approved the continuation of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), till March 2023.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The total **budgeted expenditure of Rs 2,000+** crore shall be incurred in the process of the establishment and supporting the beneficiaries. The intended **targets that will be achieved by AIM include:**
  - Establishing **10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).**
  - Establishing **101 Atal Incubation Centers (AICs).**
  - Establishing **50 Atal Community Innovation Centers.**
  - Supporting **200 startups via the Atal New India Challenges.**

### ❖ About AIM:

- Flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog in 2016.**

- It has also launched **AIM Prime, AIM iCREST,** etc to boost industrial exposure of students and innovators.
- **Objectives:**
  - To **create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship** across the country at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
  - To **provide platform and collaboration opportunities** for different stakeholders.
  - To create awareness and create an **umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem** of the country.
- **Function:**
  - **Entrepreneurship promotion** through Self-Employment and Talent Utilization, wherein innovators would be supported and mentored to become successful entrepreneurs.
  - To **provide a platform where innovative ideas are generated.**

## News in Between the Lines

### RBI's Monetary Policy Committee

#### ❖ Context

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee raised its **estimate for inflation in FY23 to 5.7%**, from the 4.5% forecast in February before Russia invaded Ukraine.

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- RBI also held benchmark interest rates and retained its 'accommodative' stance.

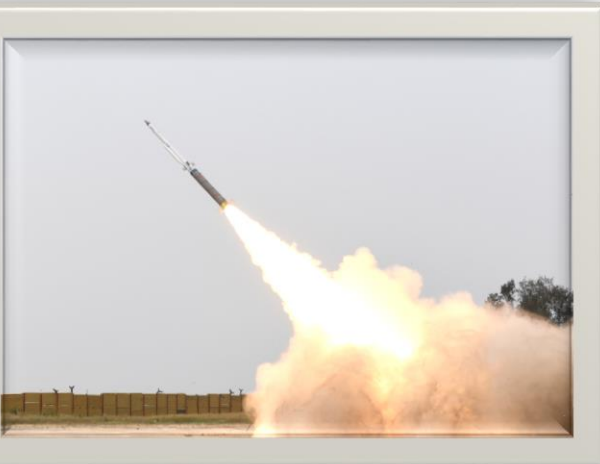
### Face to Face Centres





- An **accommodative stance** indicates a willingness on the part of the central bank to expand money supply and cut interest rates.
- It would now turn its focus to the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target.
- It also lowered its **growth estimate for the current fiscal to 7.2%**.
- ❖ **About Monetary Policy Committee(MPC)**
  - Under **Section 45ZB** of the amended **RBI Act, 1934**, the central government is empowered to constitute a **six-member MPC**. The **first such MPC** was constituted on **September 29, 2016**.
  - **Functions:**
    - It **determines the policy interest rate** required to achieve the inflation target.
    - **Decisions are taken by majority** with the **Governor having the casting vote in case** of a tie.
  - The decision of the **MPC** shall be **binding on the Bank**.
  - **Composition:** Six members (including the Chairman):
    - RBI Governor as its ex officio chairperson.
    - The Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy.
    - An officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board.
    - **Three persons to be appointed by the central government.**

## Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)



- ❖ **Context**
  - Recently, DRDO successfully flight tested **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** booster at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur** off the **coast of Odisha**.
  - The test successfully demonstrated the reliable functioning of all critical components involved in the complex missile system and met all the mission objectives.
- ❖ **About SFDR**
  - SFDR is a **missile propulsion system** currently being developed by the **DRDO of India**. The project aims to develop critical technologies required in the propulsion systems of future Indian **long range air-to-air missiles**.
  - The system utilizes a **solid fuelled air-breathing ramjet engine**.
  - It is an extremely long-range missile with a **projected range of 350 km**.
  - **Significance:** The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds.

## Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)



- ❖ **Context**
  - Recently, Union minister Jitendra Singh **called upon members of the SCO to join hands to innovate affordable scientific solutions** for common challenges like ensuring food, affordable healthcare and energy access for the people.
- ❖ **Key Highlights**
  - It is an Eurasian **political, economic and military organization**.
  - It was preceded by the **Shanghai Five mechanism (1996)** formed by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.
  - It was rechristened as the SCO in 2001.
  - The SCO **entered into force on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2003**.
  - SCO **covers 40 percent of the global population**.
  - The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese**.
  - **Aims:**
    - Security-related concerns.
    - Resolving border issues.
    - Military cooperation.
    - Intelligence sharing.
    - Countering terrorism.
    - Countering American influence in Central Asia.

### Face to Face Centres



## Pinaka Rocket System



- **Members:** China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- **Summits:** Members of the SCO meet once a year and adopt decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organization.

### ❖ Context

- Recently, a **new version of the Pinaka rocket system** has been successfully flight-tested by the DRDO and the Indian Army at the Pokhran firing ranges.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- Tested **multiple rounds of the Enhanced Pinaka Mk-I Rocket System (EPRS) and Pinaka Area Denial Munition (PADM) rocket system.**
- The rocket system that can act as a **short-range missile** is now ready for user trials and production.

### ❖ About Pinaka Rocket System

- **Developed by** Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune, supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, another Pune-based laboratory of the DRDO.
- The enhanced range Pinaka Mk-1, which is an **upgraded version**, has a **range of 45 km** and some additional features.
- The **15-foot long rocket weighs around 280 kg** and can carry **warheads up to 100 kg.**
- The system can fire a **salvo of 12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.**
- The guided version of the Pinaka has also been **developed and tested multiple times for a range of 75 km.**
- **Pinaka Area Denial Munition (PADM) rocket system.**
  - PADM are a category of ammunition used to prohibit the adversary from occupying or passing through a particular area.

## AVSAR



### ❖ Context

- **Airport Authority of India**, an PSU under Ministry of Civil Aviation, has launched an initiative - **Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region (AVSAR).**

### ❖ Key Highlights of the Report

- It is an initiative to allocate **space to Self Help Groups (SHGs)** at its airports for **selling/showcasing the self-made products** of their region.
- An area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked at each AAI operated airport.
- The space is being allotted to the self- help groups, turn on turn basis, for a duration of 15 days.
- Few outlets have already been commissioned at Chennai, Agartala, Dehradun, Kushinagar, Udaipur & Amritsar Airport.

## Banarsi Pashmina



### ❖ Context

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** launches "**Banarasi Pashmina**" to boost **Self-Sustainability & Artisanal Creativity.**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The premium Pashmina products were **prepared by the highly skilled Khadi weavers of Varanasi.**
- This is for the **first time** that Pashmina products are being **produced outside the region of Leh-Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.**
- KVIC will be selling the "**Made-in-Varanasi**" Pashmina products through its showrooms, outlets and through its online portal.

### ❖ Value Addition Chain

- **Ladakh** : Raw Pashmina wool is collected > **Delhi** : Wool is de-haired, cleaned and processed > **Ladakh**: Processed wool is hand spun into yarn > **Varanasi**: Finished yarn woven into final Pashmina products.

## Face to Face Centres



## BHUVAN-AADHAR PORTAL



### ❖ Context

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Unique Identification Authority Of India (UIDAI) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) for technical collaboration.

### ❖ About the committee

- NRSC will be developing the portal.
- It will provide:
  - Information and locations of the aadhaar centres across India.
  - Facility to search the relevant Aadhaar centres by location based on residents requirements.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016.
- NRSC, Hyderabad is one of the ISRO's centres with mandate for establishment of ground stations for receiving satellite data, generation of data products, dissemination to the users, development of techniques for remote sensing applications.

## FAO Food Price Index



### ❖ Context

- The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation has released the FAO Index.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- According to the index, global food prices have surged all time high.
- The index is the weighted average of world prices of a basket of food commodities.
- The base period is 2014-16 (value =100).
- The index has reached all time high at 159.3 in March 2022 breaking its previous record of 137.6 points in February 2022.

## G77



### ❖ Context

- The United States would prefer India to move away from its long-term history of non-alignment G77 partnership with Russia, the US Administration has told US lawmakers.

### ❖ About G77

- The Group of 77 (G77) at the United Nations (UN) is a coalition of 134 developing countries, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests.
- The group was founded on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1964, by 77 non-aligned nations in the "Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries" issued at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- The group has since expanded to 134 member countries.

### ❖ About NAM

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum of 120 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.
- The movement originated in the aftermath of the Korean War, as an effort by some countries to counterbalance the rapid bi-polarization of the world during the Cold War.
- In 1961, drawing on the principles agreed at the Bandung Conference of 1955, the Non-Aligned Movement was formally established in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, through an initiative of Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah and Indonesian President Sukarno.

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