Union Public Service Commission

❖ Context
➢ Educationist Manoj Soni recently took oath as the chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

UPSC

❖ About UPSC:
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is a constitutional body in India established under **Article 315** of the Constitution.
- The UPSC was established on **October 1, 1926**, under the Government of India Act, 1919.
- The Commission's headquarters is located in **New Delhi**, and it has regional offices in Allahabad, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, and Patna.
- **Role and Functions:** The UPSC under **Article 320** is responsible for the recruitment and selection of candidates for various central government positions, including civil services, defense services, and other important government posts. Its primary functions include conducting examinations, interviews, and making recommendations for appointments.
- **Composition:** The Commission is headed by a chairman and it can have a maximum of 10 members appointed by the president.
- **Resignation:** A member of the Union Public Service Commission can voluntarily resign from their position by submitting a written resignation to the President of India.
- **Removal/Suspension of Members:** The Chairman or any other member of the UPSC can be removed from their office only through an order issued by the President of India.

• Important Articles:
- ▪ **Article 316:**
  - ▪ This article deals with the appointment and term of office of the Chairman and members of the UPSC.
  - ▪ It specifies that the Chairman and members shall hold office for a term of **six years or until they attain the age of 65 years,** whichever is earlier.
  - ▪ It also provides provisions for reappointment and removal.
- ▪ **Article 317:**
  - ▪ This article outlines the eligibility criteria for appointment as the Chairman or member of the UPSC.
  - ▪ It states that a person should not be eligible for appointment if he/she holds any office of profit, has financial interests in any government contract, or engages in any paid employment outside the duties of the office.
- ▪ **Article 323:**
  - ▪ This article allows for the establishment of separate tribunals for adjudicating disputes and complaints related to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts under the Union and the states.
  - ▪ These tribunals, known as the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and **State Public Service Commission** (SPSC) Tribunals, have the power to hear and dispose of such cases.

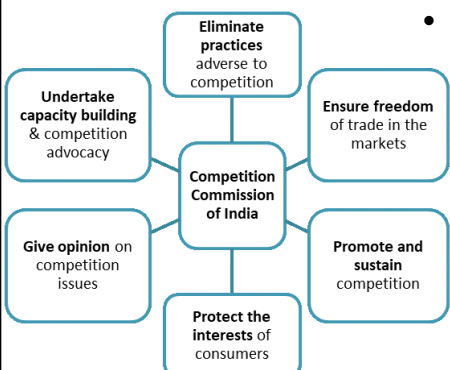# Competition Commission of India (CCI)

❖ Context
➢ The government has recently appointed Ravneet Kaur as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Competition Commission of India

❖ About CCI:
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body established under the Competition Act, 2002.
- Its primary objective is to promote and sustain competition in the Indian market, protect the interests of consumers, and ensure the freedom of trade.
- **Regulatory Authority:** The CCI serves as the apex competition regulatory authority in India. It is responsible for enforcing and implementing the provisions of the Competition Act, of 2002.

Competition Commission of India
- Eliminate practices adverse to competition
- Ensure freedom of trade in the markets
- Undertake capacity building & competition advocacy
- Give opinion on competition issues
- Protect the interests of consumers
- Promote and sustain competition

- • **Jurisdiction:** The CCI has jurisdiction over all sectors and industries in India, except those specifically exempted by the central government. It covers both public and private enterprises, including government-owned entities.

- • **Composition:** The commission comprises a chairperson and not less than two and not more than **six other members appointed** by the Central Government.
- • **Its powers include:**
  - ▪ Investigating and taking action against **anti-competitive agreements**, abuse of dominant position, and combinations (mergers and acquisitions) that may have adverse effects on competition.
  - ▪ Conducting inquiries, investigations, and hearings related to anti-competitive practices.
  - ▪ Imposing penalties, issuing cease and desist orders, and recommending structural or behavioral remedies to restore competition.
  - ▪ Granting approvals & clearances for combinations (mergers & acquisitions) that do not cause an appreciable adverse impact on competition.

Face to Face Centres
DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR :** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH** PRAYAGRAJ: 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR :** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA** BHUBANESWAR: 9818244644/7656949029

dhyeyalas.com

01

Rise in Child Sexual Abuse

❖ **Context**

➢ The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has issued notices to the Centre and states after a report revealed a significant increase (250-300%) in the circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) on social media in India.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The NHRC considers the report's content, if true, to be a violation of human rights related to the **life, liberty, and dignity of citizens**, as well as the protection of young children from the danger of sexual abuse on social media.
- The NHRC has sought a detailed report within six weeks on the steps taken to prevent the spread of CSAM on social media.
- The media report indicates that approximately **4,50,207 cases of spread** of CSAM have been reported in 2023 so far, with the Delhi Police taking action in 3,039 cases.
- **Key Issue:** The NHRC emphasizes the need to address the ill-effects of online CSAM, which can cause **irreparable psychological damage** to children and impact their growth and development.

❖ **About NHRC:**

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is an independent statutory body in India that was established on **October 12, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.**
- **Mandate:** The NHRC is responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights in India.

- **Composition:** The NHRC consists of a chairperson and other members appointed by the President of India. The chairperson must be a **retired Chief Justice of India** or a Judge of the Supreme Court, while the members are chosen from various backgrounds, including human rights, **law, social work, and public administration.**
- **Powers:** The NHRC has the power of a **civil court and can summon** witnesses, require the production of documents, and receive evidence on an affidavit. It can also recommend monetary relief to the victims of human rights violations.
- **Autonomy and Independence:** The NHRC is designed to function autonomously and independently from the government. It is empowered to investigate violations committed by government authorities, including the armed forces and police.
- **Jurisdiction:** The NHRC has jurisdiction over the entire territory of India and covers human rights violations by both state and non-state actors. It can intervene in cases of violations **of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.**
- **Recommendations and Reports:** The NHRC submits annual and special reports to the government and makes recommendations for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Overhaul Signage System

❖ **Context**

➢ The Indian Railways is undertaking a comprehensive overhaul of the signage system at railway stations to enhance the travel experience for passengers.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- As part of the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme**, around **1,275 stations**, including major cities and popular tourist and pilgrimage destinations, have been selected for this initiative.
- Currently, work is in progress at **88 stations,** while tendering and planning are underway for the remaining 1,187 stations.
- The current signage system suffers from :
  - **inconsistencies and inadequacies**.
  - lack of uniformity, overlapping with advertisements,
  - poor aesthetic design,
  - and absence of signages in certain areas.
- The new signage system aims to **prioritize simplicity, clear fonts, easy-to-see** colors, and intuitive pictograms.

- It is designed to cater to the needs of all passengers, including the **elderly, women, children, and individuals with disabilities.**
- The use of consistent and visually appealing signages will improve wayfinding and create a more uniform and accessible experience for commuters.
- The new signage system includes **tertiary boards with station names featuring tricolor backgrounds.**
- Signages are grouped according to specific categories, such **as essential journey** information, directional information, amenities and facilities, commercial facilities, and exit information.
- To implement these changes, three railway stations— **Rani Kamalapati, Gandhinagar Capital, and Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal -** have already been commissioned as examples of the new signage system.

News in Between the Lines

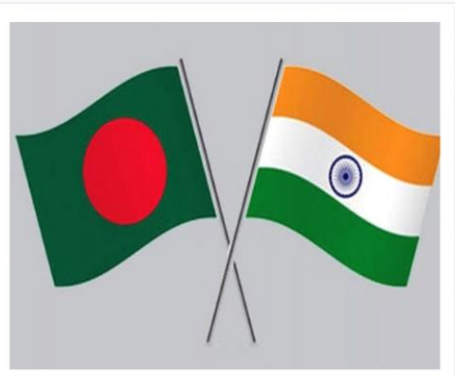| Import Ban on Military Items	❖ **Context** ➢ India has announced a new list of approximately 1,000 military items that will be subject to a phased import ban between December 2023 and December 2029.

❖ **Key Highlights:**
- The aim is to promote self-reliance in manufacturing for fighter planes, trainer aircraft, warships, and ammunition. This is the fourth list of strategically important components placed under an import ban in the past two years.
- The latest list consists of 928 items with an import substitution value of ₹715 crore.
- The items will be procured only from **local industry after** the prescribed timelines.
- The previous three lists have resulted in the indigenization of about **2,500 items**, with 1,238 items identified for manufacturing in India.
- The **Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** will undertake the indigenization process through various routes, involving **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** and the private Indian industry.
- This move is expected to boost the economy, enhance investment in defense, and reduce import dependence. India has been employing a **two-pronged approach** to achieve indigenization through import bans on weapons and systems as well as subsystems, spares, and components. Additionally, India has taken several measures in recent years to boost self-reliance in defense, including increasing the budget for domestic procurement and allowing higher foreign direct investment.
- The country has also made strides in becoming an **exporter of military hardware**, with a tenfold increase in exports since 2016-17.

50 Start-ups Exchange Programme

❖ **Context**
➢ India and Bangladesh have launched a **start-up exchange program** to foster collaboration and partnership between their entrepreneurial communities.

❖ **Key Highlights:**
- The program aims to explore opportunities, share knowledge, and enhance cooperation in diverse sectors such as e-commerce, health, transport and logistics, energy, education, and skill development. The framework and objectives of the program were established during bilateral summits between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh.
- The Bangladeshi start-ups **participating in the exchange** program were introduced to India's "Start-up India" initiative, gaining insights on various aspects of establishing and growing a start-up. The visit of the 10 Bangladeshi start-ups to India marked the beginning of the **exchange program**, paving the way for future visits and collaboration between the entrepreneurial communities of both nations.

❖ **Significance:**
- The program aims to enhance cooperation in new and emerging sectors, cutting-edge technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
- It provides a platform for start-ups to share experiences, build partnerships, and learn from each other's successes and challenges.
- The collaboration between Indian and Bangladeshi start-ups has the potential to drive economic growth, create job opportunities, and foster innovation in both countries.

Central Equipment Identity Register

❖ **Context**
➢ The Indian government is launching the **Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR)** system to combat mobile phone theft and enhance user security.

❖ **Key Highlights:**
- Developed by the **Centre for Department of Telematics (CDoT),** the CEIR system enables individuals to **block and track** their lost or stolen mobile phones across the country.
- The system underwent a successful pilot run in various telecom circles and is now being deployed nationwide.
- The CEIR system requires the disclosure of the **International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number before** the sale of mobile devices to prevent unauthorized devices from entering telecom networks.
- It can detect and prevent the use of cloned mobile phones, contributing to improved security and reduced revenue loss.
- The CEIR system has already facilitated the retrieval of over 2,500 misplaced mobile phones during its pilot run.

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR :** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR :** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029

dhyeyalas.com

03

❖ **Significance:**
- Android users will benefit from the CEIR system, as it provides a reliable mechanism to track & block stolen mobile phones, enhancing user security and discouraging theft.

Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary

❖ **Context**
  ➢ The Assam government is presently implementing initiatives to restore the traditional wildlife corridor **connecting Kaziranga** and Orang National Park through the **Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary.**

❖ **Key Highlights:**
- The Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Assam, is dedicated to conservation and preserving the region's biodiversity.
- It covers an area of 44.06 square kilometers and offers diverse landscapes that support a wide range of flora and fauna.
- Designated as a **Reserved forest in 1974** and later declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1995, the sanctuary plays a crucial role in protecting natural resources.
- Situated along the south bank of the Brahmaputra River, it provides a thriving habitat for various plant and animal species.
- The sanctuary serves as a buffer zone for the **Kaziranga Tiger Reserve,** contributing to the conservation of the region's tiger population and ecological balance.
- The sanctuary is home to several tree species, including **sal, teak, bamboo, oak,** and various types of evergreen and deciduous trees.
- **Animals Residing:** This includes Indian rhinoceros, tigers, elephants, wild boars, hoolock gibbons, capped langurs, Indian wolves, Indian foxes, and various species of deer such as hog deer and barking deer.

Indigenous Dengue Vaccine

❖ **Context**
  ➢ Serum Institute of India and Panacea Biotec have applied to the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** for collaborative Phase-III clinical trials for their indigenous dengue vaccine candidates.

❖ **Key Highlights:**
- The **Phase-III** trials aim to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of the tetravalent dengue vaccine developed by Indian manufacturers.
- Dengue virus disease causes significant morbidity and mortality globally, with 2 to 2.5 lakh cases reported annually in India. Dengue is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected Aedes mosquitoes, particularly **Aedes aegypti.**
- **Symptoms:** The symptoms of dengue can range from mild to severe. Common symptoms include high fever, severe headache, joint and muscle pain, rash, & fatigue.

Trimbakeshwar Temple

❖ **Context**
  ➢ The Maharashtra government has recently constituted a **special investigation team (SIT**) to probe a recent incident in which a group of people from the minority community allegedly attempted to 'forcibly' enter the Trimbakeshwar temple in Nashik.

❖ **Key Highlights:**
- Trimbakeshwar Temple, also known as Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple, is a highly revered Hindu temple located in the town of Trimbak in the Nashik district of Maharashtra, India.
- **Significance:** Trimbakeshwar Temple is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas (sacred abodes of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Deity:** The main deity of the temple is Lord Shiva, worshipped in the form of Trimbakeshwar or Tryambakeshwar, which means "the lord with three eyes."
- **Location:** The temple is situated on the banks of the **Godavari River** and is surrounded by picturesque hills and lush greenery.
- **Architecture:** The Trimbakeshwar Temple showcases beautiful traditional Hindu temple architecture. It features a black stone lingam (symbol of Lord Shiva) inside the sanctum sanctorum. The temple complex includes various other shrines dedicated to different deities.
- **Kusavarta Kund:** The temple complex also houses the **Kusavarta Kund,** which is considered a sacred bathing tank.

MCQ Quiz
Daily Current Affairs
Daily Pre PARE Daily

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR :** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW** (ALIGANJ): 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW** (GOMTI NAGAR): 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR :** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029

dhyeyaias.com

04