

Reservation for Women in the Urban Local Bodies (ULB)

❖ Context

- Recently, the Nagaland government informed the Supreme Court that it was ready to implement a 33 per cent reservation for women in the civic body polls.
- The apex court said there was no longer any “impediment” in holding elections to the Urban Local Bodies (ULB), and asked the Nagaland Election Commission to schedule dates.

❖ Key Highlights

- ULB polls have been a **subject of controversy in Nagaland**.
- The **civic body elections** were first held in the state in **2004**, in accordance with the **Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001**.
- In 2006, the **Nagaland Municipal Act of 2001 was amended to include a 33 per cent reservation for women** in line with the 1992 Constitutional amendment.
- **Naga groups** contend that the reservations are in **contravention with Naga customary laws** as enshrined in **Article 371(A)** of the Constitution.
- Women’s groups like the Naga Mothers’ Association (NMA) argue that **reservations do not infringe upon Article 371(A) of the Constitution**.
 - **Their rationale:** Article 371 (A) related to laws made in the Parliament while the reservations had been effected through a Constitutional amendment.

❖ About Article 371

- It accords the state **special status and protects its traditional way of life**.
- Nagaland is a **special state under Article 371 A**.
- It gives them special status to safeguard their traditional laws and according to their tradition, **women are not allowed at administrative posts**.
- **Article 371A (1) (b)** – The **Governor of Nagaland has special responsibility** with respect to law and order in the state so long as internal disturbances caused by the hostile Nagas continue.

Article No.	Subject-matter
371	Special provision with respect to the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
371 – A.	Special provision with respect to the state of Nagaland.
371 – B.	Special provision with respect to the state of Assam
371 – C.	Special provision with respect to the state of Manipur
371 – D.	Special provisions with respect to the state of Andhra Pradesh or the state of Telangana
371 – E.	Establishment of Central University in Andhra Pradesh
371 – F.	Special provisions with respect to the state of Sikkim
371 – G.	Special provision with respect to the state of Mizoram
371 – H.	Special provision with respect to the state of Arunachal Pradesh
371 – I.	Special provision with respect to the state of Goa
371 – J.	Special provisions with respect to the state of Karnataka

ICDS Scheme Portability

❖ Context

- In a **first of its kind project** in the country, the **Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) application** to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.

❖ Key Highlights

- The MTS project is envisaged to **maintain the continuity of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** like nutrition supply, immunisation and health check-up etc.
- The migrant beneficiaries include children aged up to 18 years, lactating mothers and pregnant women registered with the anganwadi centres.

❖ Implementation

- The anganwadi workers have to first **register the migrating beneficiaries from their areas** on the MTS website app on their laptops or mobile phones by using the workers’ identity cards like Aadhar, PAN card, or ration cards etc.
- They also have to **mention the age, weight, height of the migrant children**, who will be placed in nutritional categories like severe, moderate or acute.

- They would also collect **details about various informal sectors** — such as brick kilns, agriculture labour, stone crushing, construction work, sugarcane cutting or sugar factory — **where the migrant workers are headed along with their children**.
- Once a beneficiary migrates to a new district, **CDPO (Child Development Project Officer) and beat supervisors** of that belt can **log into the app’s dashboard and trace her through their field functionaries** and resume the ICDS services for her family.
- The anganwadi workers also have to **fill up the contact numbers of the employers** in order to facilitate the tracing of the migrants when they shift.

Ael

❖ Context

- Recently, a private multispeciality hospital in Ahmedabad detected an extremely rare blood group in a blood donor.

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<p>❖ About the Blood Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is perhaps the first documented case of this group in the country. According to pathologists, there are barely 40 to 50 people in the world with Ael blood group, most of whom are in South-East Asia. Each red blood cell has antigen over its surface, which helps determine which group it belongs to. Ael has the least amount of A antigen among A subgroups and can only be detected through special tests. The person with Ael group can receive blood from O Group, but can donate only to A Group. There are a few other rare blood groups and rare phenotypes reported from India including Bombay group, Indian blood group phenotypes like In(a+), In(b-), In5- (INRA-), and other rare phenotypes like Colton-null, Emm-null, P-null, and Rh-null — many of which have been discovered among Gujaratis. 	<p>❖ About Bombay Blood Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rare Bombay blood group, also called hh, was first discovered in Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1952 by Dr Y M Bhende. In hh, there are no A or B antigens. Globally, the hh blood type has an incidence of one in four million. It has a higher incidence in South Asia; in India, one in 7,600 to 10,000 are born with this type. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Blood group</th> <th>Gives</th> <th>Receives</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>O+</td> <td>O+, A+, B+, AB+</td> <td>O+, O-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>A+, AB+</td> <td>A+, A-, O+, O-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>B+, AB+</td> <td>B+, B-, O+, O-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O-</td> <td>Everyone</td> <td>O-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>A+, A-, AB+, AB-</td> <td>A-, O-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AB+</td> <td>AB+</td> <td>Everyone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-</td> <td>B+, B-, O+, O-</td> <td>B-, O-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AB-</td> <td>AB+, AB-</td> <td>AB-, A-, B-, O-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the eight main blood groups, O+ is most common followed by A+ and B+ in the world while AB- is the most rare. 	Blood group	Gives	Receives	O+	O+, A+, B+, AB+	O+, O-	A+	A+, AB+	A+, A-, O+, O-	B+	B+, AB+	B+, B-, O+, O-	O-	Everyone	O-	A-	A+, A-, AB+, AB-	A-, O-	AB+	AB+	Everyone	B-	B+, B-, O+, O-	B-, O-	AB-	AB+, AB-	AB-, A-, B-, O-
Blood group	Gives	Receives																										
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News in Between the Lines

Cuvette Centrale



❖ **Context**

- The government of the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** has approved a plan to **auction 16 oil blocks**, nine of which fall in the sensitive ecosystem of **Cuvette Centrale**, in the Congo river basin.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- It is the **world's largest tropical peatland** and the **world's second-largest forested area in the world** after the Amazon.
- Having the size of the United Kingdom, it is **located in the centre of the Congo river basin**, bounded on the west, north, and east by the arc of the Congo River.
- According to UNEP, it contains around **30 gigatonnes of carbon**, equivalent to 15 years of emissions from the United States.
- The **DRC, the Republic of the Congo and Indonesia** signed the **Brazzaville Declaration** in **March 2018** to protect this complex under the leadership of UN Environment and other Global Peatlands Initiative partners.
- The **Global Peatlands Initiative** is an effort by leading experts and institutions formed by 13 founding members at the UNFCCC COP in Marrakech, Morocco in 2016 to **save peatlands** as the world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock and to prevent it being emitted into the atmosphere.
- Although **peatlands cover less than 3% of the global land surface**, it is estimated that they **contain twice as much carbon as in forests**.

EPCG Scheme

❖ **Context**

- The **Ministry of Commerce** has relaxed various procedures under the **Export Promotion Capital Goods** scheme.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The move is aimed at reducing compliance burden and facilitating ease of doing business. Under the scheme, **imports of capital goods are allowed duty free, subject to an export obligation.**
- The authorisation holder (or exporter) under the scheme has to **export finished goods worth six times of the actual duty saved in value terms in six years.**

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- The objective of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness.

❖ **Key Changes**

- **Annual reporting of EO (export obligation)** - Instead of by April 30 each year, exporters can file that by June 30 of each year with specified information.
- **Requests for export obligation extension** should be made within six months of expiry instead of the earlier prescribed 90 days.

Equality Day

❖ **Context**

- **Tamil Nadu** has recently declared that the **birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar on April 14** would be celebrated as 'Equality Day' from this year onwards.
- **Social Justice Day:** Reformist leader **Periyar's birth anniversary** (September 17) has already been declared as **social justice day** by the TN government.

Poison Pill



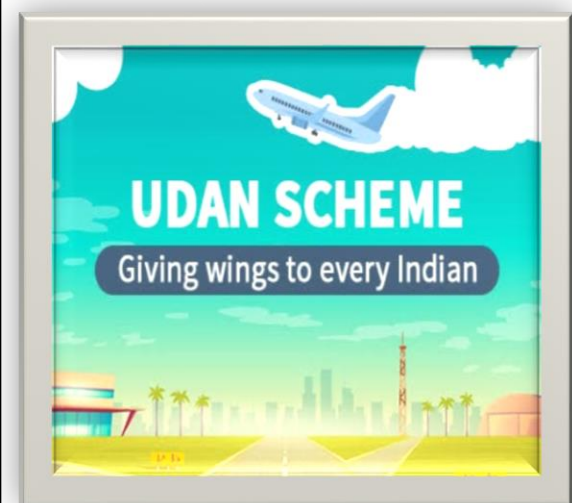
❖ **Context**

- Twitter is trying to thwart a billionaire's takeover attempt with a "poison pill".

❖ **Key Highlights**

- It's a **financial device** that help companies to **defend itself against hostile takeover**. The ingredients of each poison pill vary, but they're all designed to give corporate boards an option to **flood the market with so much newly created stock that a takeover becomes prohibitively expensive**.
- Twitter's poison pill would **dilute anyone amassing a stake in the company of more than 15% by selling more shares** to other shareholders at a discount.
- Known formally as a **shareholder rights plan**, the poison pill will be in place for 364 days. The strategy was popularised back in the 1980s when publicly held companies were being stalked by corporate raiders — now more frequently described as "**activist investors**".
- The strategy may force the bidder to revise their prices for shares.

UDAN, (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)



❖ **Context**

- Recently, '**Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik**', **UDAN Scheme** has been selected for **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020** under the category Innovation (General) - Central.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The government has initiated this **award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work** done by Districts and Organizations of State and Government.

❖ **About Udan Scheme**

- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is an initiative by the government **to connect the country's under-served and unserved airports**.
- It was **launched in 2016: Under-served airports-** Those which do not have more than a flight a day and **Unserved airports-** Those where there are no operations. It also allows for **reduction in traveling expenses**.
- The scheme is being **jointly funded by the central government and state governments**. The scheme **will run for 10 years** and can be extended thereafter. In a short span of five years, 415 UDAN routes have connected 66 underserved and unserved airports, including heliports and over 92 lakh people have benefited from it. UDAN scheme has **immensely benefited several sectors pan-India** including Hilly States, North-Eastern region and Islands.

e-DAR Portal

❖ **Context**

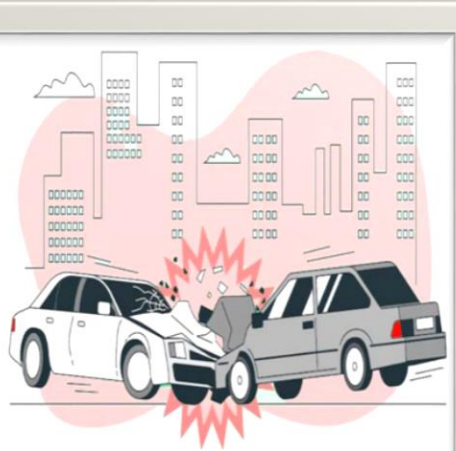
- Recently, a web portal **e-DAR (e-Detailed Accident Report)** was designed by the government in consultation with insurance companies.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- **Developed by:** The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- **Objective:** To provide **instant information on road accidents** with a few clicks

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and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families.

- **Mechanism: Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR)** will be uploaded on the portal for easy access.
 - The web portal will be linked to the **Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD)**. From iRAD, applications to **more than 90% of the datasets would be pushed directly to the e-DAR**. Stakeholders like the police, road authorities, hospitals, etc., are **required to enter very minimal information for the e-DAR forms**.
 - Thus, e-DAR would be an **extension and e-version of iRAD**.
- **Features:**
 - The portal would **provide geo tagging of the exact accident spot** along with the **site map**. This would **notify the investigating officer** on his distance from the spot of the incident in the event the portal is accessed from any other location.
 - **Details like photos, video of the accident spot, damaged vehicles, injured victims, eye-witnesses, etc.**, would be uploaded immediately on the portal.
- **Significance:** e-DAR portal would **conduct multiple checks against fake claims** by conducting a sweeping search of vehicles involved in the accident, the date of accident, and the First Information Report number.

Seaweed Park

❖ Context

- The Center would establish a **seaweed park with special economic zone status in Tamil Nadu**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The project will be the **first of its kind in India** and will come up under the **PM Kisan Sampada Yojana**. The State government had been requested to **set aside space for a special economic zone for seaweed farming**.
- This project **will promote seaweed cultivation in the country**.

❖ About Seaweed

- It is the name given to the many species of **marine algae and plants**.
- These species **grow in water bodies such as rivers, seas and oceans**. The practice of cultivating and harvesting seaweed is known as Seaweed Farming.
- **Seaweed Species in India:** The commercially exploited seaweed species in India mainly include *Kappaphycus alvarezii*, *Gracilaria edulis*, *Gelidiella acerosa*, *Sargassum* spp. and *Turbinaria* spp.
- Seaweed is **used in organic urea and medicines**. In Japan, it is **used in dishes**. It is an emerging sector with the potential to transform the life of coastal communities and provide employment besides additional income.

❖ Context

- The **sinking of the warship Moskva**, the 600-foot, 12,500-tonne flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet — whether due to a Ukrainian missile strike or, as Russia claims, a fire on board — is a **serious setback for Russia**.

❖ About Black Sea

- The Black Sea is a **marginal Mediterranean sea** of the Atlantic Ocean lying between Europe and Asia.
- It is **supplied by major rivers, principally the Danube, Dnieper, and Don**.
- The famed water body bound by : **Ukraine** to the north and northwest, **Russia** and **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west. The Black Sea ultimately **drains into the Mediterranean Sea**, via the Turkish Straits and the **Aegean Sea**.
- The **Bosporus Strait** connects it to the small **Sea of Marmara** which in turn is connected to the **Aegean Sea** via the **Strait of the Dardanelles**.
- To the north, the Black Sea is connected to the **Sea of Azov** by the **Kerch Strait**.
- The watersheds of many countries drain into the sea beyond the six that share its coast. Black Sea traditionally has been Russia's warm water gateway to Europe.

Black Sea

