



PLUTUS ACADEMY

Argasia Education PVT. Ltd.(GST NO-09AAPCA1478E1ZH)
Address: Basement C59 Noida, opposite to Priyagold
Building gate, Sector 2, Pocket I, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
201301, CONTACT NO- 8448440231

**CONTENT BY - JITHIN LAL VJ
GENERAL STUDIES FACULTY**

1.ECI makes provisions for Postal Ballot for Elderly People and disabled

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has come out with new instructions for people with disabilities. The form required for postal ballot is to be delivered at the residence of all those who are above 80 years of age.

Highlights

If the person opts for postal ballot, the Booth Level Officer will collect the filled form 12-D at his or her doorstep. The ballot is to be collected within five days of notification and deposited with the returning officer. These instructions are applicable to all the elections, by elections that were announced by the ECI in the last week of September 2020. The ballots are to be delivered and collected on pre-informed dates.

This is applicable for Bihar Elections that is to be held on October 28, 2020 as well.

About the Postal Ballot

The postal ballot facility introduced for elderly and the disabled are different from those that were in practice for service voters. Here, the people willing to use the facility will have to fill up a form. The official then carry the ballot to the residence of such voters and the voting process is videographed to ensure transparency.

Election Commission of India

It is an autonomous constitutional authority that is responsible for administering State and Union Elections. Part XV of the Constitutions details about the ECI. Under the part, Articles 324 to Article 329 speak about powers, tenure, functions, eligibility of election commission. The powers of ECI are administrative, Quasi-judicial and advisory. The powers of ECI are as follows

- It has powers to register and deregister a political party
- It has powers to enforce "Model Code of Conduct".

- It advises the President and Governor on disqualification of members of the legislature.
- It advises the Supreme Court and High Court on disputes between political parties and candidates.

2.Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, 2020

The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology has been jointly awarded to Harvey J Alter, Charles M Rice and Michael Houghton. The scientists have been awarded for the discovery of Hepatitis C Virus.

The Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology is the first of six prizes that are to be announced in coming days. The other Nobel Prizes to be announced are in the field of Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace and Economics.

About the Prize

The Prize Money of 1,118,000 USD for the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine also comes with a gold medal. The prize money was recently increased to adjust inflation. In 2019, the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was awarded to scientists Peter Ratcliffe, Gregg Semenza and William Kaelin for discovering how the body cells sense and react to low oxygen levels.

Hepatitis

According to the World Health Organization, there are more than 70 million cases of Hepatitis in the world. Over 400,000 deaths occur due to the disease. The disease is chronic and it causes liver inflammations and cancer.

3.PV Edge 2020 organised by NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Invest India will organise a Global symposium called the “India PV Edge 2020”.

Highlights

The summit aims to unveil and promote cutting edge technologies in solar manufacturing in India. India has set an ambitious target of achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030. Of this, 300 GW is to be solar.

India aims to increase solar deployment in order to reduce prices of solar manufacturing. The cutting edge solar manufacturing stands on three pillars namely

- Disruptive Photo-Voltaic Chemistries
- Utilisation of Build of Material components such as special coatings and glasses
- Manufacturing of custom-engineered advanced production equipment.

The Summit will hold sessions on “Wafers and Cells” and also sessions on “Modules and Production Equipment” and “Supply Chain”.

Solar Energy in India

Currently, India has installed solar power of 35 GW as of August 2020. This is 34% of renewable energy sources. India has proposed International Solar alliance and has put forward the concept of “One Sun One World One Grid” and also World Solar Bank.

India also held the first World Solar Technology Summit in September 2020.

World Solar Bank

The bank was established in India during the International Solar Alliance Summit, 2020. With China taking the lead in New Development Bank (NDB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the plan is to create the World Solar Bank with India becoming the lead member.

The bank is to be set up by disbursing around 50 billion USD.

India will take a lead in the bank holding 30% stake. The International Solar Alliance aims to mobilize 1 trillion USD and reduce the cost of finance and technology.

International Solar Alliance

The headquarters of ISA is located in Gurugram, Haryana. The alliance will help India achieve its INDC commitment at the Paris Agreement. Under the INDC, India aims to reduce emissions by 33%-35% by 2030 as compared to 2005.

4. Indian Army builds memorial for personnel killed in Galwan Clash

The Indian Army has set up a memorial to honour twenty soldiers who lost their lives in Galwan Clash. The Galwan Clash was fought between Indian and Chinese Army in June 2020.

Highlights

The Indian and Chinese Army are engaged in a long stand off since 1962 war. The June 2020, a violent clash broke out between the armies in the Galwan valley along Line of Actual Control. During the clash, around 20 Indian soldiers were killed.

In order to honour the soldiers’ sacrifice, the Indian Army has erected the memorial. The Indian soldiers outnumbered the Chinese in the clash. The Chinese also suffered casualties of around 35 soldiers. India countered Chinese at the Galwan Clash under “Operation Snow Leopard”.

Operation Snow Leopard

Under Operation Snow Leopard, high altitude mountain warfare specialists are kept prepared. During the operation, every team deployed in the operation was tasked to occupy heights and secure the supply lines. The army took control of the posts in the

north and south banks of Pangong Tso and other locations in Ladakh during the operation. This was done to keep an eye on the Chinese.

About the Memorial

The memorial has the names of the soldiers. They are mentioned as “Gallants of Galwan”. It lies in the Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi road.

Galwan Clash

The Line of Actual Control was not demarcated. After the clash, certain parts have now been demarcated. The lack of demarcations led to the countries having different ideas of their limits that led to regular transgressions. The Galwan Clash began as one such engagement and escalated unlike previous clashes in the history of India-China border clashes.

The clash began on the basis of “Nibble and Negotiate Policy” of China.

Nibble and Negotiate Policy of China

Under the policy, China ensures India does not build infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control. India has been developing the Ladakh region bringing in several infrastructure projects and building roads along the border. This is the main reason for this particular clash to get serious unlike the other earlier clashes.

Why is China opposing India’s Road Construction along the border?

The roadways to the border and Line of Actual Control will help Indian Defence force to transport supplies to the border forces easily. This will strengthen the borders in a huge way. Transporting soldiers, ammunition, food supplies, and other needs becomes easier. Thus, China holds policies to oppose India building infrastructure in the border.

5. India to acquire Sprut Light Tanks from Russia

India is currently in advanced talks with Russia to acquire light weight tanks. These are newly developed tanks in Russia. They are being acquired to be used in high altitude areas of the Line of Actual Control.

Highlights

The need to buy Sprut Light Tanks has come after border hostilities with China increased in the Line of Actual Control. The new tank is under trial in Russia.

India is to acquire two dozen Sprut light weight tanks in the first tranche. The cost of one tank is less Rs 500 crores. This falls within the emergency financial powers provided to the chiefs after the Galwan clash.

About Sprut Light Tank

It is a self-propelled tank destroyer and a light tank. These tanks shall be air dropped from an aircraft with three operating men sitting inside. It weighs 18 tonnes and can reach a speed of 71 kilometres per hour.

Recent Procurements

The recent Indian Procurements of India from Russia are as follows

- In January 2020, India and Russia signed 14 Memorandum of Understandings during Defexpo, 2020 in Lucknow.
- In July 2020, The Defence Acquisition Council approved the proposal of deals worth Rs 38,900. Under this, around 21 MiG-29 fighter jets were to be procured from Russia at Rs 7,418 crores. The rest such as Su-30 MKI was to be procured from HAL at Rs 10,730 crores.
- The Brahmos missile was developed under a joint venture between India and Russia
- The T-90 tanks that are currently deployed in Indian Army were bought from Russia in 2001. Currently India is developing its own tank "Arjun"
- A 5.43 billion USD deal was signed between India and Russia to acquire S-400 missiles in October 2018. The missiles are to reach India in 2021.
- In 2019, Russia offered three refurbished Kilo Class submarines to India. India bought the submarine for 1.82 billion USD.
- During Defexpo 2020, India and Russia signed deals to procure R-27 air-to-air missiles.

6. RAISE 2020, Artificial Intelligence Summit

PM Modi is to inaugurate the Global Virtual Summit on Artificial Intelligence. The summit is organised by the Government of India in partnership with academia and industry. The summit aims to transform education, health and agricultural areas.

RAISE is Responsible AI for Social Empowerment, 2020.

Highlights

In June 2020, India joined the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence along with the US, Australia, UK, France, Germany, and Canada.

Key Features of the Summit

- The summit is held to exchange ideas of Artificial Intelligence for inclusion, social empowerment, transformation in key areas such as agriculture, health care, education and smart mobility.
- It calls for global participation in government representatives, academia and opinion makers.
- The summit aims to encourage discussion on public infrastructure, transform society and build responsible Artificial Intelligence for social empowerment.

- More than 38,700 stakeholders have registered for the summit from 125 countries
- The summit will add 957 billion USD to the Indian economy by 2035.
- The summit will discuss education and awareness for responsible AI, impact of data and AI in smart cities, leveraging AI for pandemic preparedness, role of data government in enabling AI, building a future-ready Agricultural Supply Chain and role of data for responsible AI.

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence

India is a founding member of GPAI. It supports human centric and responsible development and use of AI. In June 2020, the initiative was hosted by OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) in Paris.

The initiative will bridge the gap between theory and practice of Artificial Intelligence. This is to be done by supporting research and applied activities related to AI. The GPAI will bring together international organizations and partners from civil societies, academia and society to promote responsible evolution of AI.

Artificial Intelligence

It is a branch of Computer Science that is concerned in making computers behave like humans. The technology provides ability to the machines to perform tasks such as perceiving, thinking, learning and problem solving.

7.India-France to launch Constellation of Maritime Surveillance Satellites

India and France are to launch a constellation of maritime surveillance satellites to monitor illegal spillage of oil in the Indian Ocean Region.

Highlights

In August 2020, the ISRO and the French Space Agency CNES agreed to develop and build a constellation of satellites. CNES is Centre National d'études spatiales, the National Centre for Space Studies. The satellites will carry optical-remote sensing instruments, telecommunication and radar instruments. This system is the first space-based system in the world that is capable of tracking ships continuously.

The monitoring centre is to be based in India. The satellites are to be operated jointly by both France and India. The system will also cover the entire world at the benefit of French Economic Interests.

Background

The Indian Ocean Region has several Sea Lanes of Communication that are used by many ships every day. The main purpose of the surveillance satellites is to trace illegal oil spillage by ships. The CNES-ISRO are already operating a number of climate-monitoring satellites together. TRISHNA, a thermal infrared observer will also be a part of the constellation. Both TRISHNA and Oceansat-3 Argos Mission will augment the maritime surveillance constellation.

India and France are also working together on Gaganyaan. It is the first manned space mission of India. Also, France is also a part of ISRO's Venus Mission, SHUKRAYAAN.

TRISHNA Mission

TRISHNA is Tropiques and Saral-Altika. It is a joint mission of India and France in monitoring climate changes. The mission will monitor the water cycle at the Earth's Surface. This is because the water cycle interacts with the climate change processes and a number of practical applications such as soil, agriculture, water quality assessment, water resource management and irrigation. The mission will also help measure surface temperatures at local scale.

Previous Missions

India and France have together put up two climate and ocean weather monitoring satellites earlier. In 2011, Megha-Tropiques and SARAL-Altika in 2013 were launched for this purpose.

8.India's first five animal bridges

Highlights

The animal bridges were planned to avoid disturbances to the Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor that connects Mukundra and Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuaries. The plan of the animal bridges have been approved by the Central Wildlife Board. The Rajasthan Government has also approved the project. Following these approvals, the NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) has begun the infrastructure activities. The work to construct these animal bridges is to begin by November or December, 2020.

About the Animal Bridges

- The animal bridges are natural looking structures over the corridor that will provide safe passage for the wildlife.
- The animals under the plan will get passage at every 500-metre interval.
- The animal passages are to be developed as a part of a forest corridor with trees. Therefore, the animals will find the corridor natural.
- The animal bridges will have a boundary wall of eight metres with a sound barrier of 3-4 metres in the wildlife section.

- Under the plan, around five underground stretches are to be developed. The combined length of these stretches is 2.5 km.
- The animal bridges will help prevent man-animal conflict and also avoid collisions between animals and vehicles.

Ranthambore National Park

It is located in Rajasthan. It was declared one of the Project Tiger reserves in 1973. The National Park hosts deciduous forests and wildlife such as Indian Leopard, Bengal Tiger, wild boar, sloth bear, mugger crocodile, etc. The park is bounded by Chambal river in the south and Banas river in the north.

Criteria to create a National Park

A National Park can be created by both central and state governments. However, alteration in boundaries shall be made only through resolution passed by the State Legislature. No human activities are permitted in the national park.

In India, the National Parks are IUCN Category II protected areas. The first National Park established in India was the Hailey National Park in 1936.

The species that are included in the Schedule of Wildlife Act are also not allowed for capturing or hunting in national parks.