Multi-State Cooperative Societies at the National Level

❖ Context

➢ **The Union Home and Cooperation Minister** informed that "the Government of India has decided to form three multi-state cooperative societies at the national level.

Key Highlights:

- The Government of India has decided to form **three national level multi state cooperative societies as under:**
  - Multi State Co. **Seed Society.**
  - Multi State Co. **Organic Society.**
  - Multi State Co. **Export Society.**
- **National Society of Organic Products** will provide unlimited opportunities to Indian farmers to fulfill the growing demand of **organic products in the world**.
  - It will also act as an **umbrella organization** for testing and certification of products and for storing, branding and selling them.
- **Multi State Cooperative Seed Society** will help farmers in production, purchase, branding, packaging and selling of quality seeds and will also help in new research and development.

- **Through this society,** arrangements can also be made for the protection of indigenous natural seeds which are getting extinct.
- **Multi State Cooperative Export Society** will help about 8.45 lakh societies in the country to sell their products worldwide, enhance their capabilities and make them a successful commercial enterprise.
  - This will not only increase the income of the **farmers**, but also **generate employment** opportunities.
- This decision will give new power to cooperative sector.

Multi State Cooperative Societies ACT, 2002

- An Act to consolidate & amend the law relating to co-operative societies, with objects not confined to one State & serving the interests of members in more than one State.
- To **facilitate the voluntary formation and democratic functioning** of co-operatives as people's institutions based on self-help and mutual aid.
- To enable them to **promote their economic and social betterment and to provide functional autonomy** was being felt necessary by the various cooperative societies and federation of various cooperative societies as well as by the Government.
- **In order to achieve the objective** The Multi State Cooperative Societies Bill was introduced in the Parliament.
- The bill having been passed by both the Houses of Parliament received the assent of the President on 3rd July 2002 and it came on the Statute Book as **The Multi State Cooperative Societies ACT 2002**.

NCPCR Draft Guidelines On Assessing If Minors Can Be Tried As Adults

❖ Context

➢ Recently, **The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has come up with draft guidelines on the **preliminary assessment** of whether certain minors are to be tried under law as adults in particular cases, under the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.**

Law on Trying a Juvenile as an Adult

- Earlier, all children under the **age of 18 were considered minors by the law.**
- Through an **amendment in 2015**, a provision was added to the JJ Act for trying a **child in conflict with the law** as an adult.
- Under this, a child in the **age group of 16-18 years** could be tried as an adult in case of heinous offences.
  - **Heinous Offence**- A crime for which the minimum punishment is seven years imprisonment.
- **Section 15 (1)** of the Act states that the **Juvenile Justice Board** shall conduct a preliminary assessment to determine whether to try such a child as an adult or a minor.
- The Act directs that the Board shall consider-
  - The mental and physical capacity of the child for committing the alleged offence.
  - The ability to understand the consequences of the offence.
  - The circumstances in which the offence was committed.
- After the assessment, the **Board can pass an order** saying there is a need to try the said child as an adult and transfer the case to a children's court with the relevant jurisdiction.
- If tried as a minor, the child could be sent to a special home for a maximum of three years.

Key Highlights of Draft Guidelines

- The draft says that the **preliminary assessment has to determine four aspects-**
  - **Physical Capacity of the Child**
    - To determine the child's **'locomotor' abilities** and **capacities**, particularly with regard to gross motor functions such as walking, running, lifting, throwing etc such abilities as would be required to engage in most antisocial activities.
  - **Mental Capacity**
    - To determine the child's ability to make social decisions and judgments.
  - **Circumstances in which the Offence was Allegedly Committed**
    - Psychosocial vulnerabilities of the child.
    - I.e. Life event, trauma abuse etc.

- **Ability to Understand the Consequences of the Alleged Offence.**
  - These include what others will say or perceive him, how it might affect his personal relationships and the knowledge of relevant laws, respectively.

- **Completion of Preliminary Assessment**
  - It must be within **three months of the child being produced before the Board.**
- **Responsible Entity**
  - **Juvenile Justice Board** is solely responsible for assessment.
  - It can take **assistance from child psychologists or psycho-social workers.**

News in Between the Lines

Bioenergy Summit

❖ **Context**

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, will address the 11th edition of **Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII)** flagship event **"Bio Energy Summit 2023**" on 12th January, 2023 in New Delhi.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- The Summit with **the theme "**Energy Transition- **Solution for a Sustainable Tomorrow"** will provide an opportunity for Innovators and a way forward for Clean & Green Energy Solutions for future.
- The summit will also dwell upon **the relevance of biofuel** in the overall sustainability agenda.
- **More than 500 delegates** including CEOs, policy makers, academia & researchers, innovators, diplomats, and investors are expected to join this.

❖ **About CII:**

- **CII is a non-government**, **not-for-profit, industry-led** & industry-managed organization.
- **CII serves as a reference point** for Indian industry & the international business community.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, **partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes**.

Global Entrepreneurship Monitor India Report

❖ **Context**

- Union Minister of MSME chaired the 19th meeting of the **National Board of MSME** (NBMSME) held in New Delhi.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- Union Minister released the **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor** (GEM) India Report 2021-22 and **launched the Formalization Project.**
- **The Ministry of MSME signed** Memoranda of Understanding for Formalization Project with Small Industries Development Bank of India.

❖ **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM):**

- The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM**) is an international project** which seeks to provide information on the entrepreneurial landscape of countries.
- GEM **carries out survey-based research** on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship ecosystems around the world and is being **led by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad.**
- As per Report, **India's entrepreneurial activity expanded in 2021**, with its total Entrepreneurial Activity rate (percentage of adults (aged 18–64) who are starting or running a new business) **increased to 14.4% in 2021, up from 5.3% in 2020.**

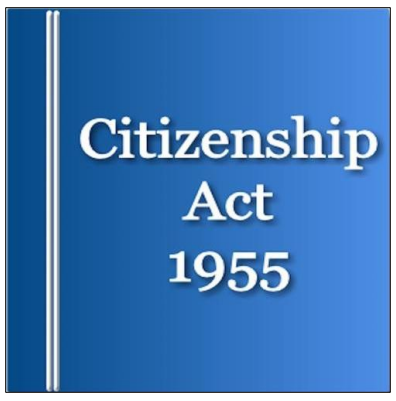
Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955

❖ **Context**

- Recently, a Supreme Court Constitution Bench, while hearing **petitions challenging Section 6A of the Citizenship Act,** said it would first decide whether the provision is constitutionally valid before proceeding to other issues raised in the pleas.

❖ **Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**

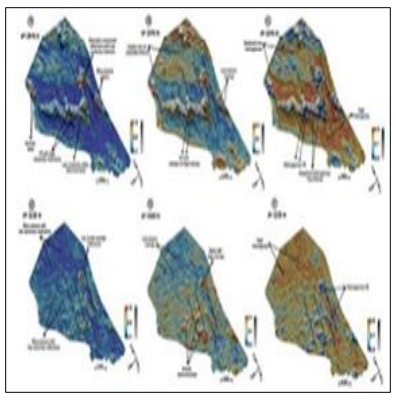
- **About**
  - Section 6A was a special provision inserted into the 1955 Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the **'Assam Accord'.**
  - It was **signed on August 15, 1985** by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the leaders of the Assam Movement.



- Its objective was to **preserve and protect the Assamese culture, heritage, linguistic and social identity.**
- The Accord came at the end of a six-year-long agitation by the **All Assam Students Union (AASU)** to identify and deport illegal immigrants, mostly from neighbouring Bangladesh, from the State.

- **Provisions**
  - Under Section 6A, foreigners who had entered Assam before **January 1, 1966,** and been "ordinarily resident" in the State, would have all the rights and obligations of Indian citizens.
  - Those who had entered the State between **January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971** would have the same rights and obligations except that they would not be able to vote for 10 years.
- **Petitioners Arguement**
  - They argued that the special provision was in violation of Article 6 of the Constitution, which fixed the cut-off date for granting citizenship to immigrants at July 19, 1948.

Exploration Of Hydrocarbons



❖ **Context**

- Decoding depositional environment of subsurface sediments in **Dibrugarh field of Upper Assam basin**: An aided tool for exploration of Hydrocarbons**.**

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- **Using 3D seismic data**, scientists have traced how the depositional history of sediments in a basin can be deciphered by using 3D seismic data.
- This can pave the way for the **exploration of hydrocarbons** and provide insights to **geo- or seismo-tectonics of the area.**
- **The Upper Assam basin** in NE India is surrounded by the Himalayan Mountain belt in the north, Naga Hills in the south, and Mishmi Hills in the east.
- **Most of the sediments belong to the Tertiary period** (66 - 2.5 million years ago) and recent alluvium cover.
- This research was carried out by **Seismic Interpretation Laboratory (SIL),** Dehradun, and is published in the journal **of Geological Society of India.**

Scheme For Promotion Of Rupay Debit Cards And BHIM-UPI

❖ **Context**

- In a bid to **boost digital payments** in the country, the Union Cabinet scheme for promotion of **RuPay debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions**.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- Under the scheme, **acquiring banks will be provided financial incentive**, for promoting Point-of-Sale and e-commerce transactions using RuPay Debit Cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions for the current financial year FY 2022-23.
- This incentive scheme will **facilitate building of a robust digital payment** ecosystem and promoting RuPay Debit Card and BHIM-UPI digital transactions.
- The scheme will also **promote UPI Lite and UPI 123PAY** as economical and user-friendly digital payments solutions.
- **Earlier various stakeholder** in the digital payments systems and **the Reserve Bank of India (RBI**) expressed concerns regarding potential **adverse impact of the zero MDR** (Merchant Discount Rate) regime on the growth of the digital payments ecosystem.
- **UPI has achieved a record** of 782.9 crore digital payment transactions with a value of ₹ 12.82 lakh crore in the month of December 2022.

Very Short Range Air Defence System or VSHORAD (IR Homing) Missile System

❖ **Context**

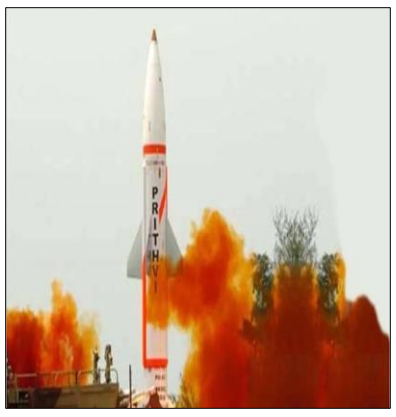
- Recently, The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC**) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to procure the **Very Short Range Air Defence System or VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system.**

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- VSHORADS is a **man portable Air Defence System (MANPAD).**
- It is **designed and developed indigenously by DRDO**'s Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.
- It is **meant to kill low altitude aerial threats** at short ranges.

- **Technical Features**
  - It is propelled by a dual thrust solid motor.
  - The missile incorporates many novel technologies including **miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS)** and integrated avionics, which were successfully proven during the tests conducted last year.
  - The DRDO has designed the missile & its launcher in a way to ensure easy portability.
- **Significance**
  - It can be **deployed quickly in rugged terrain** and maritime domain.
  - They will be a **critical air defence missile** for the forces, even for an all-equipped infantry unit, and will be the **best option for mountain warfare.**

Prithvi II



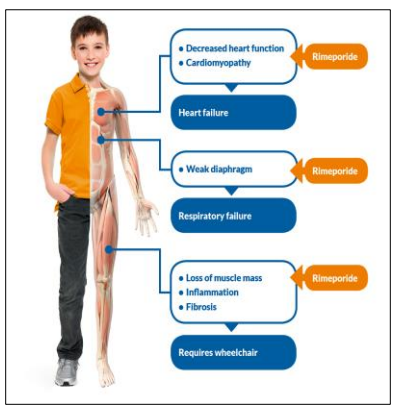
❖ Context

- Recently, India successfully carried out a test launch of tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a test range off the Odisha coast.
- The missile struck its target with high accuracy.

❖ About Prithvi II

- Prithvi was **developed by the DRDO** under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.**
- Prithvi-II is a **nuclear-capable surface-to-surface missile.**
- It is powered by light propulsion twin engines.
- It has a range of around **350 kilometres** and can carry **500-1,000 kg of warheads.**
- It uses an advanced inertial navigation system to strike the set target.
- The Prithvi-II was earlier successfully test-fired during night hours in 2018 and in 2019.
- Prithvi-II missile, which is a well-established system, has been an **integral part of India's nuclear deterrence.**

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy



❖ Context

- Researchers in India are working on developing an affordable treatment for a rare and incurable genetic disorder called **Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy with over 5 lakh cases in the country.**

❖ Key Highlights:

- Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is the **most common and fatal** type of muscular dystrophy.
- DMD is affecting roughly **one in 3,500 boys.**
- It is marked by **progressive muscle degeneration and weakness** due to alterations of a protein called "dystrophin" that helps keep muscle cells intact.
- It causes **gradual loss of muscle tissue** and function eventually leading to wheelchair dependency at approximately the age of 12 years, requirement for assisted ventilation at approximately the age of 20 years and eventually premature death.
- Muscle weakness is the principal symptom of DMD.
- It can **begin as early as age 2 or 3,** first affecting the proximal muscles (those close to the core of the body) and later affecting the distal limb muscles (those close to the extremities).
- The condition is **predominantly seen in boys**, but in rare cases, it can also affect girls.
- The current therapeutic options available to treat DMD are minimal and highly expensive and mostly imported from abroad.

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