

Delimitation Commission for J&K



❖ Context

- Recently, The Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the constitution of the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission to readjust constituencies in the new Union Territory (UT's).

❖ Key Highlights

- **Petitioner Arguments** : The petition filed was limited to a challenge of the notification issued by the Centre-
 - In March 2020 establishing the **Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission**.
 - In March 2021 **extending its term** for the purpose of conducting delimitation only for Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Supreme Court Observation** :
 - **Articles 2 and 3** of the Constitution enable the Parliament to create new States and Union territories.
 - Accordingly, the two new UT's have been created.
 - The **J&K Reorganisation Act** which created the two new Union territories assigns the role of readjustment of constituencies to the **Delimitation Commission under the Delimitation Act, 2002**.
 - A law made under **Article 3** can always provide for readjustment of the Constituencies in the newly constituted States or Union territories through the Delimitation Commission.
 - There is **no illegality associated** with the establishment of the Delimitation Commission under the order of March 6, 2020.

❖ About Delimitation

- Delimitation is **redrawing of boundaries** of an assembly or Lok Sabha constituency.
- It is done to **reflect the demographic changes** in a state, Union Territory or at the national level.
- Delimitation is also **responsible for reserving a designated number of seats** in a state assembly or the Lok Sabha for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

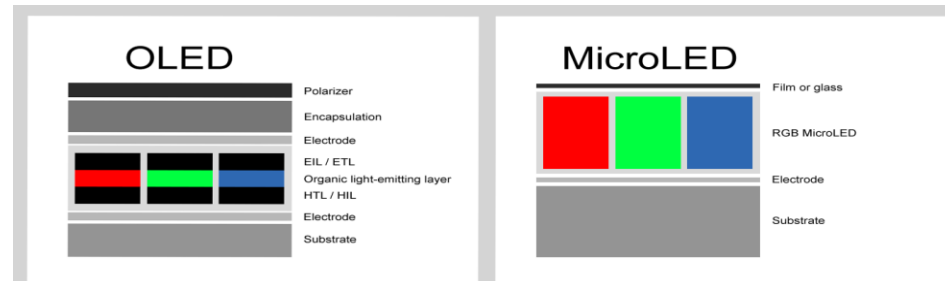
❖ About Delimitation Commission

- **Constitutional Provisions** :
 - **Article 82** : the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
 - **Article 170** : States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- **Appointment** : Appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.
- **Members** : Serving or retired SC judge, Chief Election Commissioner or an Election commissioner nominated by CEC and Election commissioner of the respective states.
- At the national level, **four Delimitation Commissions** have been constituted till date (1952, 1963, 1972 and 2002).
- ❖ **Delimitation Commission for J&K**
 - The Delimitation Commission was constituted to the Union Territory in **March 2021**.
 - It was **headed by Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai**.
 - It has five MPs from J&K as associate members.
 - Till 2019, Delimitation exercises in J&K have been **different from those in the rest of the country**.
 - While Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats in J&K was governed by Constitution of India, delimitation of state's Assembly seats was governed by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution.
 - Assembly seats in the newly-created Union Territory would be as per the provisions of the Indian Constitution.

MicroLED Displays

❖ Context

- Apple's shift to microLED display technology is reportedly under process. It is being considered the **next big transition in display technology**.



❖ About MicroLED Display Technology

- The basis of microLED technology are **sapphires**.
- A sapphire can **shine on its own forever**.
- A microLED screen is filled with such small but strong light.
- The picture in a microLED screen is generated by several individual light-emitting diodes.
- A microLED is as small as cutting a centimetre of hair into 200 smaller pieces.
- Each of **these microLEDs are semiconductors** that receive electric signals.
- Once these microLEDs are gathered, they form a module.
- Several modules are then combined to form screens.

❖ Advantages

- MicroLED displays are **brighter, have better colour reproduction and provide better viewing angles**.
- They make images appear as if they painted on top of the device's glass and are quite the technological feat.
- MicroLEDs have **limitless scalability**, as they are resolution-free, bezel-free, ratio-free, and even size-free.
- The screen can be **freely resized in any form** for practical usage.
- MicroLEDs also individually produce red, green, and blue colours without needing the same backlighting or colour filters as conventional displays.

Face to Face Centres



14 February 2023

BIMARU States

❖ Context

- On the inaugural day of the Uttar Pradesh government's two-day Investors' Summit, the Prime Minister recalled the tag of 'BIMARU', used to describe the state.

Children and mothers	IMR	Underweight children (%)	Children fully immunised (%)	Child sex ratio	MMR
Rajasthan	47	32	61	883	255
UP	50	35	47	899	292
Bihar	42	37	60	933	219
MP	54	36	54	912	230

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Prime Minister again used the term in Rajasthan two days later, at the inauguration of the New Delhi-Mumbai expressway's first phase.
- The BIMARU acronym has often been used in the past few decades to refer to the states of **Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**, usually to imply they have lagged in terms of economic growth, healthcare, education, and more. Its usage has also drawn criticism.

❖ What do BIMARU states mean, who coined the term?

- **Ashish Bose**, the late demographer (who studies population and changes within it), coined this term in a paper presented to then-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- At that point in time, the states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand were not separate states and were part of the grouping. **BIMARU means "sickly" in Hindi.**
- Bose had coined the term to pinpoint India's demographic problem as far back as 1985 when he was asked to brief the then prime minister on **India's family planning programme.**
- **Bose mainly argued that** from a family planning and population control perspective, these four states with their high population growth rates were likely to offset the gains made elsewhere in the country.
- The national goal of reaching a **"stabilising population"**, meaning where the **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** of 2.1 was achieved, was more difficult to achieve here.
- **TFR estimates** the number of children each woman bears in her lifetime, on average.

❖ What is the role of BIMARU states in Population Growth?

- **"Erstwhile BIMARU states**, which accounted for 41% of India's total population in 2001, will account for 43.5% in 2026. It also shows that the share of BIMARU states in the absolute increase in India's population during 2001-26 will be of the order of **50.4% while the share of the south will be only 12.6%.**" Bose said.
 - A **2020 report** of the National Commission on Population of the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, titled Report of the Technical Group on Population Projection, said BIMARU states (excluding the three newly carved out states) will contribute **to 49.1% of the population increase in India between 2011 and 2036.**
 - Population in Indian states also dictates the **delimitation process** or the number of seats allotted to them in Parliament.
 - Southern states have stressed that the **division of seats and devolution of funds** to states on the basis of population are unfair to them.
- ### ❖ How has BIMARU been used over time?
- The BIMARU tag has been used to criticise the parties in power in these states, and also to showcase success in achieving some progress.
 - **At times Odisha** is also included in the grouping, as BIMAROU, although it is not as big a state in terms of population.
 - An **Empowered Action Group (EAG)** was set up to include these five states in 2001.

News in Between the Lines

UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)



❖ Context

- As on 31.01.2023, a total number of **73 unserved /underserved airports including 9 Heliports & 2 water aerodromes have been operationalised**, since 2017, under the UDAN scheme.

❖ 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 the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.**
- The scheme envisages providing connectivity to-
 - **Under-served airports-** Those which do not have more than a flight a day.
 - **Unserved airports-** Those where there are no operations.
- UDAN is a market driven scheme :
 - Interested airlines based on their assessment of demand on particular routes, submit their proposals at the time of bidding under UDAN.
- The scheme is being **jointly funded by the central govt. & state governments.**
- The scheme **will run for 10 years** and can be extended thereafter.
- Significance : UDAN scheme has **immensely benefited several sectors pan-India** including Hilly States, North-Eastern region and Islands.
 - It also allows for **reduction in traveling expenses.**

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Financial Action Task Force (FATF)



❖ Context

- Government agencies have expedited efforts to further strengthen the anti-money laundering and counter-terror financing frameworks in view of the **coming Financial Action Task Force (FATF) assessment of India** in the fourth round of mutual evaluations expected later this year.

❖ About FATF

- The FATF is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 during the **G7 Summit to develop policies to combat money laundering**.
- In 2001, its mandate was **expanded to include terrorism financing**.
- **Aims** : Combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **Members** : The FATF currently has **39 members** including **two regional organizations** -the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.
 - India is a member of the FATF consultations and its Asia Pacific Group.
- **Secretariat**- Paris.
- Considered in the grey list may face:
 - Economic sanctions from IMF, World Bank, ADB.
 - Problem in getting loans from IMF, World Bank, ADB and other countries.
 - Reduction in international trade
 - International boycott.

Millet International Initiative for Research and Awareness (MIIRA)



❖ Context

- With food security and nutrition a top priority in agriculture during its G20 Presidency, **India is planning to propose the launch of MIIRA** a global initiative to encourage the consumption and production of millets.

❖ About MIIRA

- “MIIRA” will be aimed at coordinating millet research programmes at the international level.
- It is in **line with the UN declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets** and the Centre’s plan to make India a global hub for millets.
- **Objectives** : MIIRA will be launched keeping in mind the nutritional value and the climate resilient nature of millets.
 - MIIRA will aim to connect the millet research organisations across the world while also supporting research on millet crops.
 - It will be **setting up a web platform** to connect researchers and holding international research conferences.
 - The plan is also to **promote millet consumption by raising awareness**.
- **Secretariat** : Delhi.
- **Side Note** : Finance Minister in her budget speech described various types of millets as ‘Shree Anna’.
 - The Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.

Sarojini Naidu



❖ Context

- India celebrated Sarojini Naidu’s birth anniversary on February 13 as **National Women’s Day**.

❖ About Sarojini Naidu:

- Sarojini Naidu was elected as the Indian National Congress's **first-ever female president** in the year 1925.
- From 1947 to 1949, Naidu served as the **first Governor of the United Provinces** (now Uttar Pradesh), and she also assisted in the development of the Indian constitution
- The British government lauded Sarojini Naidu with the ‘**Kaisar-i-Hind**’ Medal for her service during the plague epidemic in India.
- Naidu was an inevitable **part of the Salt Satyagraha** movement started by Mahatma Gandhi.
- She was also part of the **Quit India Movement** started against British rule in India.

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CBRM Weapons



❖ Context

- An ongoing Indo-US joint exercise, named **TARKASH**, has for the first time included “Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terror response” in its drill.

❖ What Are CBRN Weapons?

- CBRN weapons have the capability of creating mass casualties as well as mass disruption and therefore, are classified as weapons of mass destruction.
- **Chemical weapons** include mustard gas (damages the respiratory tract, skin, and eyes) and nerve agents (victims rapidly become unconscious, have breathing difficulties, and may die).
- **Biological agents** like anthrax (causes fever, malaise, cough, and shock. Death can be within 36 hours), botulinum toxin (leads to paralysis of respiratory muscles) and plague are some examples of biochemical weapons.
- **Radiological weapons** include weaponized radioactive waste and dirty bombs as well as nuclear weapons.
- **TARKASH is a joint exercise** by the National Security Guard (NSG) and US Special Operations Forces.



Aero India 2023



❖ Context

- Aero India show began at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru. Prime Minister inaugurated the **14th edition of the biennial show**.

❖ About Aero India Show

- On behalf of the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence, Aero India is being organised by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** this year.
- “The event **aims to promote export** of indigenous air platforms like Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas, HTT-40, Dornier Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- It will **integrate domestic MSMEs** and start-ups in the global supply chain and attract foreign investments including partnerships for co-development and co-production.
- **Defence Ministers of friendly foreign** countries will participate in the meeting, which has been organised on the theme ‘**Shared Prosperity through Enhanced Engagements in Defence (SPEED)**’.
- About 251 MoUs, with an expected **investment of Rs 75,000 crore**, are likely to be signed for partnerships between various Indian and foreign defence companies and organisations.

Sun’s North Pole



MCQ Quiz

[Daily Current Affairs](#)

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❖ Context

- Recently, the sun puzzled many scientists with a large prominence near its north pole.

❖ Key Highlights:

- A prominence is like a flare but remains rooted on the sun’s surface.
- Material from a **northern prominence** broke away from the main filament & is now circulating in a **massive polar vortex** around the north pole of the Sun.

❖ Why it matters?

- According to a report by Space dot com, this type of solar activity has been observed at the **55° latitude every 11 years** i.e. the duration of each solar cycle.
- The **solar magnetic field reverses** itself over this cycle. While scientists are familiar with the ebb and flow of solar activity, why such flares erupt near this particular latitude every cycle has remained unanswered.
- In this particular event, scientists also observed a filament form a **polar whirlwind for the first time**.

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