

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)



❖ Context

- Recently, a high-level committee meeting was held in connection to the **appointments of the new Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director, Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and Lokpal.**

❖ Appointment of the CBI Director:

- The CBI director is appointed according to provisions under the **Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946)** and amendments therein brought by the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.**
- The appointment is done by the Centre on recommendation by a **three-member Appointment Committee.**
- The appointment committee comprises the **Prime Minister** as the chairperson, **the leader of opposition (LoP)** in the **Lok Sabha** and the **Chief Justice of India**, or a Supreme Court judge nominated by him.
- If there is no recognised LoP, then the leader of the **single largest party** is included in the committee.
- The **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003** fixed the **tenure of the CBI director at 2 years.**
- **Supreme Court Directions:**
 - The apex court in a 2019 order mandated that no officer with less than six months' tenure remaining can be considered for the post of CBI chief.
 - The court also ruled that the director is to remain in office for 'not less than 2 years,' and can be transferred only with the consent of the appointing committee.

❖ Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

- The CBI is a **premier investigating police agency** in India.
- Recommended by the **Santhanam Committee** on Prevention of Corruption.
- **Established on April 1, 1963**, and draws its power from the Special Police Force (SPE), 1946.
- Operating under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (India).**
- It serves as the **main agency of the Central Government** and is responsible for a wide variety of criminal and national security matters.
- Provides **assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal**
- Exempted from the provisions of the **Right to Information Act.**
- It is also the **Interpol agency** in India.
- **Headquarter- New Delhi.**
- **Functions:**
 - Investigation of **cases related to corruption, scams, and misbehavior** of central government officials
 - Investigation of **serious crimes** having national and international ramifications.
 - **Maintaining crime statistics** and disseminating criminal information, etc.

Long-Range Storm Shadow Cruise Missiles

❖ Context

- The United Kingdom will provide **long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles** to Ukraine, which it has been requesting in a bid to push back invading Russian forces.



❖ Key Highlights

- Storm Shadow is a long-ranged, air-launched, conventionally armed, deep-strike missile, which is manufactured by the France-based MBDA Missile Systems.
- It was produced in 1997.
- With a **range of more than 250 km**, Storm Shadow weighs **1,300 kg** and is **5.10m** long.
- It's capable of **being operated day and night** in all weathers and designed to destroy high-valued stationary targets such as airbases, radar installations, communications hubs and port facilities.
- The report by Airforce Technology mentioned that what makes this missile a stealthy weapon is the **combination of its long-range, low altitude and supersonic speed.**
- Storm Shadow, equipped with the fire and forget technology, also offers high precision deep strike capability as it features a sophisticated navigation system.
- The **missile features the BROACH** (Bomb Royal Ordnance Augmented CHarge) warhead — a high-technology warhead, which first cuts the surface of the target, penetrates into it and then explodes.

Mitochondrial Disease and Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT)

❖ Context

- Recently, the announcement that a **baby was born using three persons' DNA** in the UK caused the stir that news of this kind was expected to evoke.

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❖ Key Highlights:

- The baby has three parents, technically, **deriving the mitochondria from a donor apart from genetic material (DNA) from biological parents.**
- Pioneering technology was used to facilitate this, in order to prevent the child from inheriting the mother's mitochondrial disease.

❖ Mitochondria Disease:

- Mitochondria are basically the **powerhouses of the cells**, they generate the energy, and thus are also responsible for cell function in the human body.
- Certain defects might occur impacting on the way the mitochondria produces energy for the cells.
 - Specially in the 'energy-hungry' tissues of the brain, nerves, muscles, kidneys, heart, liver), and thereby impacting cell function.
- The diseases that arise out of such mitochondrial mutations are called **mitochondrial diseases.**
- When the mitochondria are impaired and do not produce sufficient energy, that affects how the organs function, leading to a broad assortment of symptoms across the body, including brain damage, organ failure and muscle wastage.
- The symptoms get more and more debilitating as a child grows, and have no cure, but can be treated.
- Some estimates put the incidence of mitochondrial diseases as one in 5000 people.

❖ Mitochondrial Donation Treatment (MDT):

- MDT is also known as **mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT).**
 - **Mitochondrial diseases are only passed on by the mother**, and research has been attempting to find a way out of protecting the infant from inheriting the disease.
 - Here, through an advanced In Vitro Fertilisation technique, the baby's biological father's sperm was used to fertilise the eggs from the biological mother, who has a mitochondrial disease, and **a third, female donor with clear mitochondria**, separately.
 - Then, the nuclear genetic material from the donor's egg is removed and replaced with the genetic material from the biological parents'.
 - The final product – the egg - which has the genetic material (DNA) from the parents, and the mitochondria from the female donor, is implanted in the uterus.
 - It carried to full term to yield a baby who will be free from the mother's mitochondrial disease.
- ## ❖ Side Effect to the Procedures:
- Sometimes it is possible that a small amount of the maternal mitochondria with errors may get passed on during the procedure.

Preterm Births

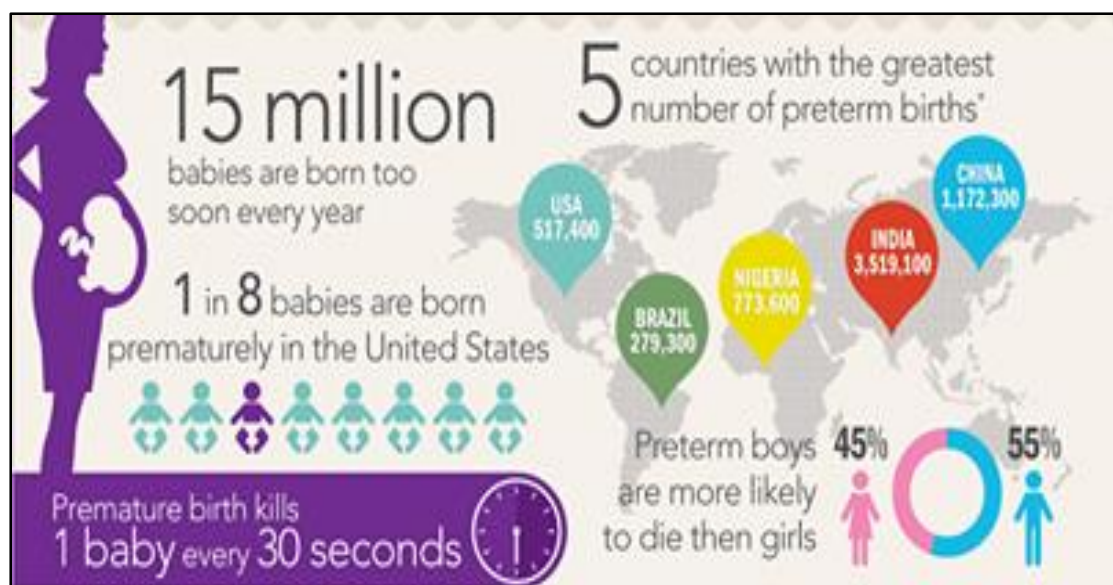
❖ Context

- At 3.2 million, India recorded the highest number of preterm births in 2020, according to the World Health Organisation's Born Too Soon: decade of action on preterm birth report.

❖ About Preterm Births:

- Preterm is defined as **babies born alive before 37 weeks of pregnancy are completed.**
- Based on gestational age, there are **three categories of preterm births**, as defined by the WHO:
 - Extremely preterm (less than 28 weeks).
 - Very preterm (28 to less than 32 weeks).
 - Moderate to late preterm (32 to 37 weeks).
- Preterm births can happen both spontaneously or for several medical reasons, including infection, or other pregnancy complications that require early induction of labour or caesarean birth.

- According to the WHO report, rates of preterm birth have **barely changed between 2010 and 2020.**
 - In fact, it is even rising in some parts of the world. In 2020, an estimated 13.4 million babies were born preterm.
- Preterm birth is associated with long-term damage to respiratory and cardiac systems for many survivors and can also have a neurodevelopmental impact.
 - Disabilities can range from less severe outcomes to major disabilities like diplegia.
- The majority of preterm births occur in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, but preterm birth is truly a global problem



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Model Prisons Act 2023

❖ Context

- Centre recently finalised 'Model Prisons Act, 2023', new law to allow reform and rehabilitation of prisoners.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The current 'Prisons Act, 1894' is almost **130 years old** and mainly focuses on keeping criminals in custody and enforcing discipline and order in prisons, with no provision for reform and rehabilitation.
- The Model Prisons Act, 2023 aims to address the gaps in the existing Prisons Act by providing guidance on making provisions for **parole, furlough, and remission** to prisoners to encourage good conduct, special provisions for women and transgender inmates, and a focus on the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates.
- Some salient features of the new Model Prisons Act include:
 - a provision for security assessment and segregation of prisoners,
 - individual sentence planning,
 - grievance redressal, the establishment of a prison development board, and a focus on the physical and mental well-being of prisoners.
- The Act also includes provisions for the **use of technology** in prison administration, such as video conferencing with courts and scientific and technological interventions in prisons.
- It also includes provisions for the punishment of prisoners and jail staff for using prohibited items like **mobile phones in jails**.
- The Act provides for the establishment and management of high-security jails, **open jails (open and semi-open)**, and the protection of society from the criminal activities of hardened criminals and habitual offenders.
- The Act also provides for **legal aid to prisoners**.
- The Act focuses on **vocational training and skill development** of prisoners to facilitate their **reintegration into society**.

❖ Significance:

- The decision of the government to bring reforms in every sector will result in bringing more **transparency and improvement** in prison management and prisoners' administration across the country.

130-year-old colonial-era Prison laws revised

The MHA has prepared a new 'Model Prisons Act 2023'

Lays emphasis on the safety of women & transgender prisoners

Ensures rehabilitation of inmates in society after completion of sentence

Brings about transparency in prison management by using technology

Focuses on vocational training & skill development of prisoners and their reintegration into the society

Benefits of Model Prisons Act, 2023

New act to have focus on **vocational training** and **skill development** of prisoners and their reintegration into the society.

Provision for **legal aid** to prisoners, provision of **parole, furlough** and **premature release etc.** to incentivise good conduct.

Provision of protecting society from criminal activities of **hardened criminals and habitual offenders** etc.

❖ Side Note:

- **Parole:** Parole is a conditional release granted to an individual who has been convicted of a crime and is serving a prison sentence. It allows the person to be released before completing their full sentence, under the supervision of a parole officer.
- **Furlough:** Furlough, also known as temporary leave, is a short-term release granted to a prisoner, allowing them to leave the prison facility temporarily. Furloughs are usually granted for specific reasons, such as attending a family event, receiving medical treatment, or participating in educational or vocational programs.
- **Remission:** Remission refers to the reduction of a sentence or the early release of a prisoner as a result of good behavior, participation in rehabilitation programs, or other factors determined by the legal system.

News in Between the Lines

Kukis



❖ Context

- ALL 10 MLAs from the Kuki community in Manipur - including two ministers in the government - demanded a separate administration, stating that the state of Manipur "miserably failed to protect" the Chin-Kuki-Zomi tribals.

❖ About Kuki People:

- The Kuki people are an **ethnic group native to the Mizo Hills** (formerly Lushai) a mountainous region in the southeastern part of Mizoram.
- The Kuki constitute one of several hill tribes within **India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar**.
- In northeast India, they are present in all states **except Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The term 'Kuki' was given by the British and Bengalis of India, though the **group is descended from the Zo/Zomi**.
- Some fifty tribes of Kuki people in India are recognised as scheduled tribes, based on the dialect spoken by that particular Kuki community as well as their region of origin.
- The ethnic Kuki population in Manipur is about 30% of the **28.5 lakh population, according to the 2012 Census**.

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Monlam Chenmo



❖ Context

- The annual five-day-long Great Prayer Festival, "Ladakh Monlam Chenmo," a mass prayer camp by Buddhist monks and nuns for world peace and happiness started recently in Leh, Ladakh.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Monlam Chenmo translates to "Great Prayer Festival" or "Great Prayer Gathering."
- It is an annual event held in Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and is considered one of the most important religious observances.
- **Origin:** Monlam Chenmo was established by Je Tsongkhapa, the founder of the **Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism**, in the 15th century.
- It was originally intended to provide a platform for monks and laypeople to engage in collective prayers for world peace and the well-being of all sentient beings.
- **Significance:** Monlam Chenmo holds great importance in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition as it serves as an opportunity for practitioners to accumulate merit, purify negative karma, and generate positive aspirations for the benefit of all beings.

One Station One Product



❖ Context

- 728 Railway Stations across States and UTs covered under One Station One Product.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Ministry of Railways recently launched this scheme in March 2022 with objectives to promote 'Vocal for Local' vision of the government, providing a market for local or indigenous products and create additional income opportunities for the marginalized sections of society. Under the scheme, OSOP outlets at railway stations are allotted for showcasing, **selling and giving high visibility** to indigenous or local products.
- These OSOP stalls are designed through National Design Institute for uniformity.

Alligator Gar



❖ Context

- Discovery of alligator gar, in Srinagar's Dal Lake surprised experts in Kashmir and triggered a flurry of humorous reactions.

❖ About Alligator Gar:

- Scientific Name: Atractosteus spatula.
- Alligator gars are indigenous to North America and feed on other fish, but have been found in other areas after their accidental introduction in waterbodies.
- It has an alligator-like head & pointed teeth of the fearsome fish. Usually, they don't attack humans, but they can grow up to eight feet and can be dangerous to indigenous fish species. The prehistoric relatives of the species 1st appeared 157 million years ago. Conservation Status : IUCN Red List: Least Concerned
- Side Note : Neither alligators nor crocodiles are found in Kashmir waters.

'Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines 2023



❖ Context

- Union Ports, Shipping & Waterways Minister recently launched **Harit Sagar' the Green Port Guidelines**, initiated by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways to meet the larger vision of achieving Zero Carbon Emission Goal.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The **Harit Sagar Guidelines - 2023** focus on the dynamics of the ecosystem in port development, operation, and maintenance while aligning with the concept of "Working with Nature" and minimizing the impact on the biotic components of the harbor ecosystem.
- The guidelines emphasize **the use of Clean/Green energy** in port operations and the development of port capabilities for storing, handling, and bunkering Greener Fuels such as Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Green Methanol/Ethanol, etc.
- The plan involves focused implementation and close monitoring of Green Initiatives, aiming to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- The objective of the guidelines is to minimize waste by implementing the principles of **Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, and Recycle** in order to achieve zero waste discharge from port operations. The guidelines also promote monitoring based on **Environmental Performance Indicators**. They also provide provisions for adopting the global **Green Reporting Initiative (GRI)** standard.
- The guidelines aim to promote environmentally friendly practices across all ports.

MCQ Quiz

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