

June- 18

NATIONAL

Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)

- ❖ The meeting of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has revised cost and deadline of World Bank Funded Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP) to Rs.3466 Crore till June 2020.
- ❖ The meeting was held under Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Expenditure.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project

- Objective
 - improve the safety and operational performance of 261 dams in Tamil Nadu (105), Kerala (53), Karnataka (27), Madhya Pradesh (50) and Odisha (26)
- Key components
 - Rehabilitation of dams and associated infrastructure
 - Dam instrumentation and monitoring; asset management plans and emergency preparedness plans
 - Institutional strengthening, focusing on regulatory and technical frameworks for dam safety assurance



- ❖ DRIP is a state sector scheme with the central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams, along with institutional strengthening with system-wide management approach.
- ❖ The project was launched in 2012 by Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation with assistance from World Bank.

Reservations in Promotions

- ❖ The Supreme Court has allowed Centre to go ahead with reservation in promotion for SC/ST employees as per the law.
- ❖ From the center's behalf, the Additional Solicitor General Maninder Singh had pleaded SC to allow promotions, which were on standstill, as per the mandate of the constitution.

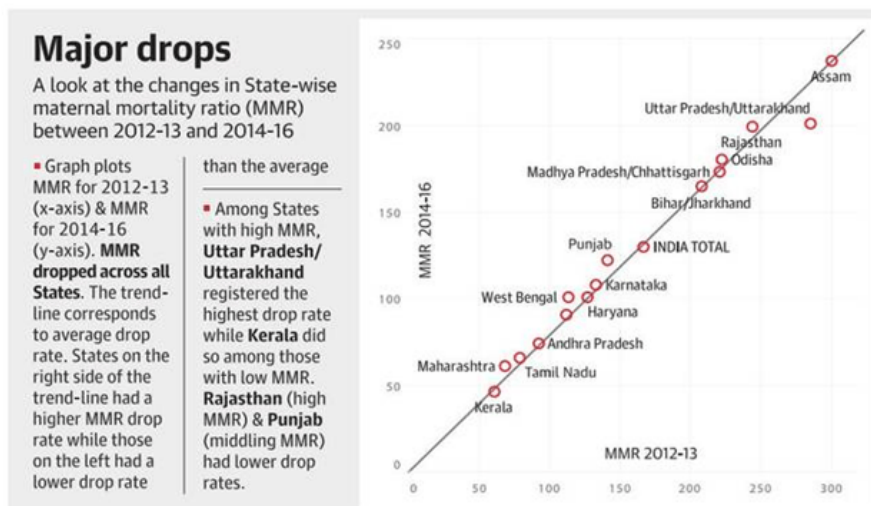
FROM YES TO NO TO MAYBE

- Reservation in promotions allowed since 1955 till the SC held it unconstitutional in 1992
 - In 1995, law was amended to allow it
 - The new law was challenged in SC and in 2006, the court said that before framing any law, the state will have to satisfy the test of:
 1. Backwardness
 2. Inadequate representation
 3. Overall efficiency
-
- Relying on the 2006 SC judgment, several high courts struck down reservations in promotion
 - UPA government introduced a bill that said all SCs and STs shall be deemed backward. The bill awaits passing by Parliament
 - On Tuesday, the apex court allowed promotions temporarily till it decides on the legality of the law

- ❖ With respect to the reservation in promotions in government jobs, the Supreme Court verdict in M Nagaraj Case (2006) that concept of creamy layer is not applicable to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- ❖ Reservations in promotions are mandated by Article 16 (4A) of the constitution.

Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)

- ❖ According to the sample registration system (SRS) data released by the office of Registrar General of India, the maternal mortality rate (MMR) declined to 130 in 2014-16 from 167 in 2011-13.



- ❖ The 22% reduction in MMR since 2013 is a significant improvement on a parameter widely used by analysts and developmental economists to rate a country's progress.
- ❖ Among states, the three best are Kerala-46 (61), Maharashtra-61(68) and Tamil Nadu-66 (79) and worst states are Assam-237 (300), UP/Uttarakhand-201 (285) and Rajasthan-199 (244)
- ❖ The global MMR for the year 1990 was 385. In 2015, this number stood at 216, showing a drop of 44% in 25 years.
- ❖ Most of the global maternal deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa (66%), followed by South Asia (22%).

Solar Charkha Mission

- ❖ The Solar Charkha Mission of the Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be launched by President in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Mission has been approved by the Government of India and will disburse subsidy of Rs 550 crore to the artisans and it will cover 50 clusters
- ❖ 15 new state-of-the-art technology centers are being set up all over the country including North-East, of which 10 centers will become operational by March 2019.

INTERNATIONAL

29th Anniversary of Tiananmen Massacre

- ❖ June 4, 2018 marked the 29th anniversary of Tiananmen Square protests/massacre of China.
- ❖ On this day in 1989, the Chinese troops had violently retaken the Tiananmen Square in Beijing from the pro-democracy protesters.

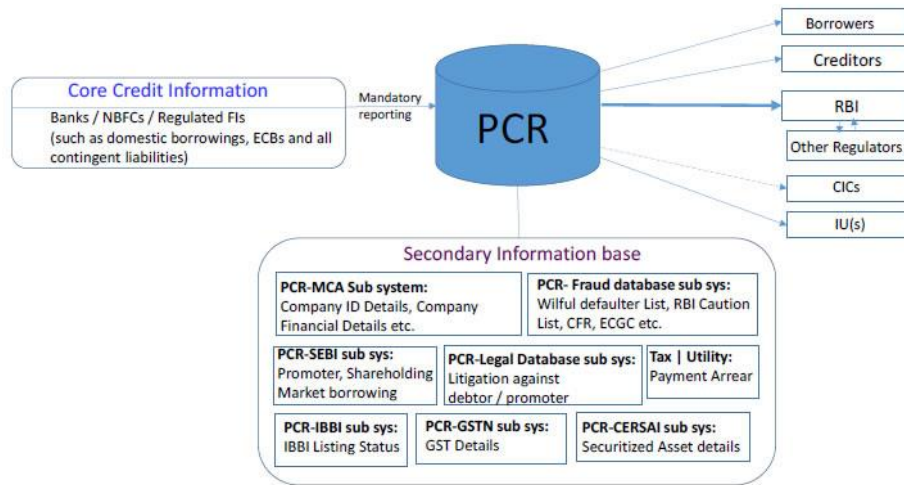


- ❖ This event is also known as June Fourth Incident in modern Chinese history.
- ❖ On this occasion, the Chinese people worldwide also remember a lone man, better known as “Tank Man” who armed with nothing more than two shopping bags stepped in front of the row of tanks moving down the streets of Beijing.
- ❖ Though there was neither a common cause nor a common leader, the broad demand was political reforms as the protesters did not like the way country’s economy was run by Communist Party of China.

ECONOMY

Public Credit Registry

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will set up a Public Credit Registry (PCR) as a repository of information regarding loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers.
- ❖ This decision has been taken as per recommendations of Y.M. Deosthalee committee set up by the central bank and it had submitted its report in April 2018.



- ❖ This registry will distinguish between bad borrowers and good borrowers and will offer interest rates accordingly.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018

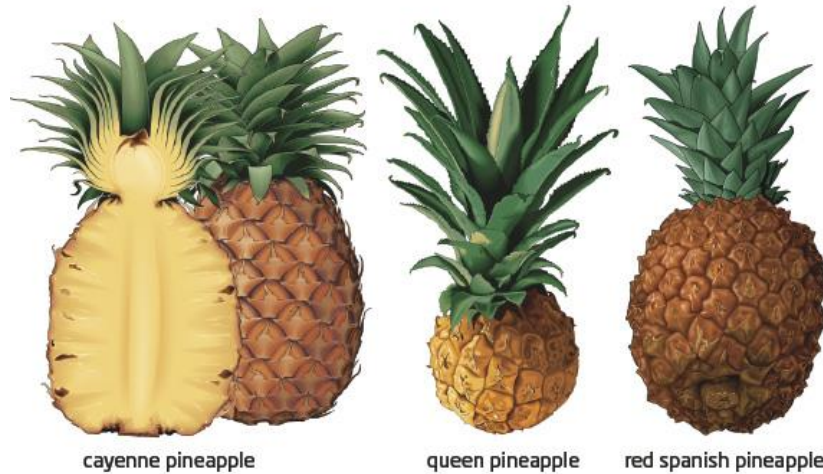
- ❖ The 11th edition of Geo-Intelligence Asia 2018 was held at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
- ❖ Its theme was 'GeoSpatial: A Force Multiplier for Defense and Internal Security'.
- ❖ The aim of the event was to provide a platform to showcase innovative applications of Geospatial technologies.
- ❖ The event was organized by GeoSpatial Media and Communication with Directorate General of Information System as Knowledge Partners and Military Survey as Co-organisers.

STATES

State Fruit of Tripura

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has declared Tripura's queen variety pineapple as state fruit.
- ❖ Queen pineapple is spiny, golden yellow in color. It has pleasant aroma and flavor.

- ❖ It had received Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2015 and was helped by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation, a central public sector unit in getting it.



- ❖ President also dedicated 73.71km stretch of National Highway 8 (NH-8) from Mata Tripurasundari temple in Udaipur of Gomati district to Sabroom in South Tripura.
- ❖ The NH-8 connects Tripura with the rest of the country via Assam and Meghalaya.

Auto-disable syringes

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to use auto-disable syringes for all clinical purposes to prevent infection.
- ❖ The state will enforce this decision from the World Hepatitis Day, observed every year on July 28.
- ❖ It will help in strengthening and lowering burden of infections by breaking the cycle of cross infection.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Oceans Day - 08 June

- ❖ The World Oceans Day is being observed every year on 8th June to raise global awareness of current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans.
- ❖ The day also seeks to provide unique opportunity to honor, protect, and conserve the world's oceans.
- ❖ The focus of World Oceans Day 2018 is on 'Preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean'.



- ❖ It also coincided with the theme of World Environment Day 2018- 'Beat Plastic Pollution'.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated 8 June as the World Oceans Day in 2008 by passing its resolution.
