



December - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Union Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar has introduced the Code on Social Security, 2019, in the Lok Sabha.
 - The Bill subsumes eight different Bills on various welfare measures, and seeks to provide social security to 50 crore unorganized sector workers.
- ❖ Puducherry Government unveiled new Start-up Policy.
 - It aims to create a corpus fund of ₹10 crores to support the setting up of start-up incubators and to develop co-working spaces.
- ❖ 16th edition of Forbes 2019 list 'The World's 100 Most Powerful Women' has been topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
 - Union Finance Minister of India Nirmala Sitharaman is ranked 34th place in the list. The 100th rank is occupied by Swedish girl Greta Thunberg.

NATIONAL

Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019

- ❖ The Parliament has passed the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), 2019
 - in Lok Sabha on December 09, 2019.
 - In Rajya Sabha on December 11, 2019.
- ❖ The President gave his assent for the bill on December 12, 2019.
- ❖ The Act seeks to give citizenship to refugees of 6 communities (Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, and Parsi) belong to Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.
- ❖ It makes easier for non-Muslim immigrants from India's three Muslim-majority neighbours to become citizens of India.

Key features

- ❖ The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- ❖ For the first time, the Act will grant citizenship on the basis of religion to non-Muslims who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- ❖ The amendment relaxes one of the requirements for applicants of residing in India from 11 years to 5 years as a specific condition.
- ❖ Exceptions: The provisions on citizenship for illegal migrants will not apply to two categories



- states protected by the 'Inner Line Permit' (Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur)
- areas covered under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (administration of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram).

Background

- ❖ In India, citizenship is regulated by the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- ❖ This Act has been amended in 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, and 2016 so far.
- ❖ The Act specifies that citizenship may be acquired in India through five methods – by birth, by descent, by registration, by naturalisation and by incorporation of territory into India.
- ❖ However, illegal migrants cannot become Indian citizens.
- ❖ Now the Act defines illegal migrants.

CITIZENSHIP ACT & AMENDMENT	
A LOOK AT WHAT THE BILL AIMS TO DO IN VIEW OF THE ACT, AND THE RESPONSE IT RECEIVED	
FOR SELECT FEW	CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY
Citizenship Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act 1955 in order to make illegal migrants — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan — eligible for citizenship after six years of stay in India instead of 12 even if they don't possess proper document.	Under the Citizenship Act, the applicant must have resided in India during the last 12 months, and for 11 of the last 14 years to get citizenship. The Bill relaxes this 11-year requirement to five years for persons belonging to the 6 religions and 3 countries. It also makes those who entered India till 2014 eligible.
CRITICISM RECEIVED SO FAR	
The Bill has come under severe criticism with critics saying that the Bill violates Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which stipulates "constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards" for the preserving the culture and identity of Assamese people. Critics have also said that the extensive exercise of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will become null and void due to this exercise.	

Delhi hosted Indian Ocean Dialogue

- ❖ Union Ministry of External Affairs hosted 6th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) and Delhi Dialogue XI at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi.
- ❖ This was for the first time that these two dialogues were held consecutively and on similar Indo-Pacific themes.
- ❖ Theme for 2019 Indian Ocean Dialogue is- 'Indo-Pacific: Re-imagining the Indian Ocean through an Expanded Geography'.
 - The IOD was organized by Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA).
- ❖ Theme for 2019 Delhi Dialogue is 'Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific'.
 - It was organized by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute.

Infrastructure Investment Trust

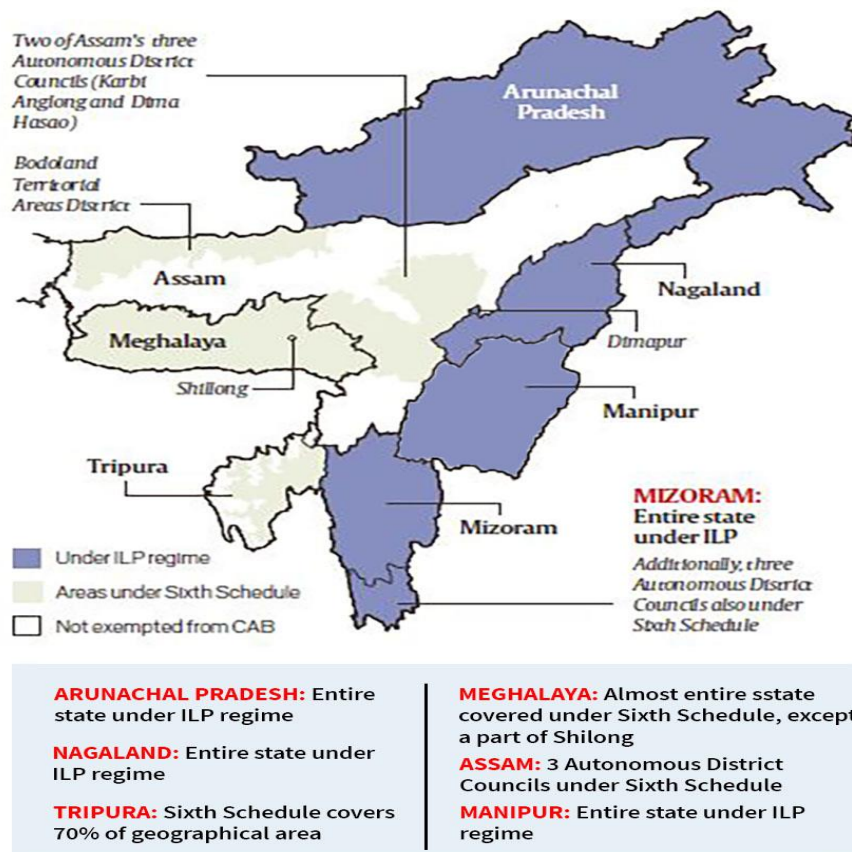
- ❖ The Union Cabinet authorised National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to set up Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and monetize National Highway projects.
- ❖ Given the magnitude of the Bharatmala, NHAI would need adequate funds to complete the projects within the prescribed timelines.
- ❖ Bharatmala is the government's flagship highway development program.

About the Infrastructure Investment Trust:

- ❖ NHAI will set up the Infrastructure Investment Trust(s) (InvIT) as per InvIT Guidelines issued by SEBI.
- ❖ Under InvIT, highway projects will be bundled to form a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to be offered to investors.

ILP – Diampur of Nagaland and Manipur

- ❖ Nagaland government has extended the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system to the district of Dimapur.





- ❖ This step was taken to exempt the entire district from the purview of the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB).
- ❖ So far, Dimapur was the only place in Nagaland which was not under the ILP system.
- ❖ Because the district is a commercial hub and has a mixed population (often referred to as 'Mini India').
- ❖ The inclusion of Manipur in Inner Line Permit is also announced on 10 December 2019.
- ❖ At present ILP covers Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur.
- ❖ Moreover, the entire northeast India has been exempted from CAB except for Sikkim and non-tribal areas in Assam and Tripura.

INTERNATIONAL

UK Elections 2019

- ❖ British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives party has won an outright majority in the House of Commons (Lower House) in the British Parliament (365 out of 650).
- ❖ The labour party under Jeremy Corbyn suffered major losses since the 1935 general election (202 out of 650).
- ❖ A record 15 Indian-origin politicians entered the UK's House of Commons (UK's lower house).
- ❖ It was UK's third general election since 2015 - and the first to be held in December for almost 100 years.

ECONOMY

B2C E-commerce Index 2019

- ❖ India has ranked 73rd out of 152 countries in a business-to-consumer E-commerce index.
- ❖ This index is released by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
- ❖ It measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping.
- ❖ This E-commerce Index 2019 has been topped by the Netherlands for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ Switzerland is ranked 2nd on the list, followed by Singapore, Finland, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Ireland, Germany and Australia.

- ❖ European nations hold 8 of the top 10 spots.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Education - Dell technologies partnership with UNESCO

- ❖ Dell technologies announced a partnership with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace) to improve educational quality in classrooms.
- ❖ It will be done by using ICT tools and enabling teachers to adopt new technologies as mentioned under Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SGD 4-Education).
- ❖ The announcement regarding this was made during the Transforming Education Conference for Humanity (TECH 2019) held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



STATES

Workshop on Bamboo cultivation – Jammu

- ❖ A first of its kind workshop on Bamboo cultivation will be held in Jammu.
- ❖ The Workshop-cum-Exhibition titled “Bamboo-A Wonder Grass - the opportunity for sustainable development in Jammu and Kashmir”.

- ❖ It will focus on the promotion of Bamboo cultivation in the potential Kandi areas of Jammu.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

FICCI - Sportsperson of the year 2019

- ❖ 'Sports Person of the Year 2019' award at the FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) India Sports Awards - 2019 honoured the following persons at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi.
 - Indian women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal (25).
 - Asian Games gold medalist shooter Saurabh Chaudhary (17).



Space Oscar award

- ❖ The Gurugram-based startup blue Sky Analytics has created an application called 'Zuri' that won the Copernicus Masters Award also called Space Oscars.
- ❖ This award was under the Social Entrepreneurship category.



- ❖ The award was given by the Earth observation program managed by the European Commission (EU) in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA).

Sunil Chhetri - brand ambassador of Puma

- ❖ Indian men's football team captain Sunil Chhetri has signed a 3-year deal with PUMA.
- ❖ The Bengaluru FC skipper is currently the second-highest goal-scorer in international football after Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo.
- ❖ He has been named as the AIFF Player of the Year six times.
- ❖ He was also conferred with the Arjuna award in 2011 and Padma Shri in 2019.

