1.AGNI-V EXTENDS ITS REACH

India successfully tested Agni-V, validating the long range surface-to-surface ballistic missile's reliability.

FIRE POWER

The Agni-V is the most advanced version of the indigenously-built missile series

- It Is an Intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile
- Developed by DRDO

Propulsion	Length	Weight	Payload	Engine
3 stages	**17.5** metres	**50** tonnes	**1** tonne	**3** stage solid

- Agni-V was last tested on December 26, 2016
- Countries with ICBM technology: U.S., Russia, U.K., France and China

Other missiles in the series

	Agni-1	Agni-2	Agni-3	Agni-4	Agni-5
Range (km)	700	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000+
Test date	April 19, 2012	Sept. 15, 2013	Jan. 31, 2015	Nov. 9, 2015	Jan. 18, 2018

RANGE More than **5,000** kilometres

⌗ This was the fifth test of the missile and the third consecutive one from a canister on a road mobile launcher. All the five missions have been successful.

⌗ Agni-V, with a range of over 5,000 km, is India's longest range ballistic missile and can reach most parts of China, making it the mainstay of India's triad to deliver nuclear weapons.

⌗ The user associate test-flight of the missile has further boosted indigenous missile capabilities and deterrence strength of the country.

⌗ Agni-V is the most advanced missile in the Agni series with new technologies incorporated in it in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.

⌗ "The navigation systems, very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) and the most modern and accurate Micro Navigation System (MINS) had ensured the missile reached the target point within few meters of accuracy.

⌗ The high speed on-board computer and fault-tolerant software along with robust and reliable bus guided the missile flawlessly.

2.CYBER WARRIOR POLICE FORCE TO TACKLE INTERNET-RELATED CRIMES

⌗ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to set up **Cyber Warrior Police Force (CWPF)** and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to tackle internet-related crimes such as cyber threats, child pornography and online stalking.

⌗ These divisions will be set up under MHA's newly created Cyber & Information Security (CIS) Division.

Cyber Warrior Police Force (CWPF)

⌗ The CWPF is likely to operate under National Information Security Policy and Guidelines wing of MHA's CIS division.

- ⌘ It is proposed to be raised on lines of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).
- ⌘ So far, there has been no decision on the CWPF's jurisdiction, where it will derive its powers or personnel from and whether it will be empowered to make arrests.

3.PRESIDENT PRESENTS 2016 SANGEET NATAK AKADEMI AWARDS

- ⌘ The Sangeet Natak Akademi's Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are recognised as among most coveted national honours bestowed on on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars of performing arts in the country.
- ⌘ They are given by Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama.
- ⌘ Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards are given in categories of music, dance, theatre, other traditional arts and puppetry, and for contribution and scholarship in performing arts.

4.iCreate

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart inaugurated the iCreate centre in Ahmedabad. Called as the International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate), the venture has been started to promote and nurture entrepreneurs by providing them finance, mentors and technology.

What is iCreate?

A joint venture between Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC) and Gujarat Entrepreneurship and Venture Promotion Foundation (GEVPF), iCreate is an independent centre to promote 'Start-up India' scheme. The centre aims to provide technology and assistance to "the innovative and imaginative minds in their entrepreneurial journey."

How does iCreate function?

iCreate provides 13-week grooming program to equip an individual with the right skill and tools required in the entrepreneurial world. At the end of this, the participants have the option to pitch their idea for further development. The proposals are evaluated by an independent panel and selected subsequently. Financial assistance up to Rs 50,000 is provided by the venture for few deserving pitches. Apart from this, a platform is also provided for the participants to meet leaders from various sectors.

Who can participate in iCreate?

Students, existing entrepreneurs, traders, small sized businessmen can participate in the program. The skeleton business panel will be evaluated by the mentors and further guidance will be provided.

5.Make-II

A simplified 'Make-II' procedure will enable greater participation of industry in acquisition of defence equipment. This process will greatly help import substitution and promote innovative solutions. This simplified 'Make-II' procedure will also amend the existing 'Make Procedure' in Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)-2016.

The salient features of the new 'Make-II' procedure include the following:

- The industry can suggest projects, especially among those items which are currently being imported. Start-ups or individuals can also suggest proposals. Service Headquarters will also list out a series of projects which can be undertaken as 'Make-II' projects under the new procedure.
- The potential 'Make-II' projects will be approved by a collegiate comprising of DRDO, HQ (IDS), Department of Defence under a committee chaired by Secretary (Defence Production). Based on the in-principle approval agreed by this committee, the projects will be hosted on Ministry of Defence/Department of Defence Production's website inviting industry to participate.
- There will be no limit to the number of industry who may respond to the EoI for development of the prototype subject to meeting the minimum qualification criteria. The design and development time of 12 to 30 weeks is granted to industry to offer the prototypes.
- There is no limit to the number of industry players who may show interest and offer prototype.
- After this period, a commercial RFP will be issued. Once the RFP is issued, it shall not be retracted. The industry, who wins the bid, is assured of an order.
- Service Headquarter (SHQ) will constitute a Project Facilitation Team for facilitating the process under this procedure.
- The case will be progressed even if there is single entity offering an innovative solution.
- The industry that develops the product will retain the title and ownership and all other rights in intellectual property. However, for some specified reasons like National Security, Government shall have 'March-in' rights.
- Normally, there shall be no negotiations by Contract Negotiation Committee (CNC) in multi-vendor contracts.
- 'Make-II' procedure reduces the total time from in-principle approval to placing of order by 50 percent. The estimated time to finish the whole process has come down to 69 to 103 weeks.
- Projects involving developmental cost of less than three crores will be reserved for MSME

6.PUBLIC CLOUD POLICY

- Maharashtra became first state in country to unveil Public Cloud Policy that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage onto cloud.

7. **Manjolai Estate among 23,000 hectares in Tirunelveli district declared Reserve Forests**

The State government has passed an order to declare nearly 23,000 hectares in Ambasamudram taluk in Tirunelveli district as Reserve Forests.
In the government order, Md. Nasimuddin, principal secretary, Environment and Forests, said the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for declaring the 23,000 hectares in Singampatti forest block (in the Kalakadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve) has been approved and will be declared as Reserve Forests with effect on and from September 19, 2018.

Editorial Analysis

8. Dual duty: on the twin responsibilities of States-States have a twin responsibility: to protect free speech and preserve law and order

- Needs no reiteration that summary bans on films violate the freedom of speech and expression enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Such a right is subject to reasonable restrictions on some grounds, including public order. However, the use of the threat of violence and other forms of intimidation cannot give the state an oblique reason to stifle fundamental freedoms by voicing apprehensions and invoking its powers to maintain peace.
- In *S. Rangarajan v. P. Jagjivan Ram* (1989), the Supreme Court said the state cannot plead inability to handle the problem of a hostile audience as that "would be tantamount to negation of the rule of law and a surrender to blackmail and intimidation
- In the current controversy, the filmmakers agreed to change its name from *Padmavati* to *Padmaavat*. The new title indicates it is based on a medieval poem on a legendary Rajput queen and not any historical personality.
- It would be a taint on the country's record of protecting free speech if a film with admittedly no claim to historical accuracy is banned on the mere pretext that some people, who have not even seen it, find it offensive. The Supreme Court has indicated where the constitutional duty of State governments lies.

9. Towards solar-powered agriculture

State Model:

- Maharashtra is solarising its agricultural feeders by installing solar power plants at the substation level, through competitive bidding.
- Karnataka is promoting solar pumps for existing grid-connected farmers under a net-metering regime, allowing them to generate additional income by feeding back surplus energy into the grid.
- In eastern States, GIZ, a German development agency, has piloted community ownership models providing water-as-a-service using solar pumps

Outcome:

Despite the diversity of approaches and significant government subsidies, only about 1,42,000 pumps have been deployed till date against a target of one million pumps by 2021.

Suggestions

- couple solar pump deployment with micro-irrigation and water harvesting interventions at the farm and community levels.
- focus on technology demonstration and deploy at least five solar pumps in each block of the country
- in regions with already good penetration of electric pumps, prefer feeder solarisation through competitive bidding over solarisation of individual pumps.
- in regions with prevailing local water markets, promote community-owned solar pumps.
- encourage sharing of solar pumps among farmers through farmer extension programmes.
- Given zero marginal cost of pumping with solar, water sharing, already a prevalent practice in many parts of the country, helps put a marginal price to the water.
- provide interest-subsidy to farmers combined with reduced capital subsidy to enable large-scale deployment of solar pumps in a shorter span of time.

Way forward

Guided by on-ground experiences and an expanding body of research, the government should continuously improve and innovate its support mechanisms on solar for irrigation

10. Protecting marriages across castes

- Eight years after the National Commission for Women (NCW) proposed a special law to punish honour killings incited by khap panchayats, the Supreme Court has said that adults are free to marry persons of their own choice and hurting couples, or summoning them before clan members, groups, or a khap, is "absolutely illegal".
- The Prevention of Crimes in the Name of 'Honour' and Tradition Bill, 2010 was an outcome of the "spate of murders and dishonourable crimes in the name of 'honour'", said the NCW
- The NCW recommended that the anyone who kills or hurts an adult couple who chose to marry of their own free will should be punished for murder or any offence under the Indian Penal Code. The government agreed to the Supreme Court's suggestion to frame guidelines recognising honour killing as a separate offence.

Mains Practice questions

1. **Discuss the features and significance of the provisions of Prevention of Crimes in the Name of 'Honour' and Tradition Bill, 2010. (250 Words)**

Prelims Practice questions
1. **PUBLIC CLOUD POLICY is 1st introduced in which state**

a. TamilNadu
b. Maharashtra
c. Andrapradesh
d. Gujarat

2. Make-II

I. help import substitution and promote innovative solutions in agriculture
II. Make-II' projects will be approved by a collegiate comprising of DRDO
Select the correct statement
a. I only
b. II only
c. Both
d. None

3. iCreate(International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology)
I. located at ahmedabad
II. skill development and financial assitance program for Entrepreneurs
a. I only
b. II only
c. Both
d. None