



CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

Dec 10, 2018

Exercise INDRA NAVY 2018

Context: The 10th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY will be conducted at Visakhapatnam.

About:

- INDRA is a navy exercise between Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) and Indian navy.
- The primary aim of the exercise is to increase inter-operability amongst the two navies, develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- Initiated in 2003, INDRA NAVY exercise has matured over the years with increase in scope, complexity and level of participation.
- Exercise INDRA NAVY-18 would help to further strengthen mutual confidence and inter-operability and also enable sharing of best practices between both the navies
- The exercise will be yet another milestone in strengthening maritime security cooperation between the two navies and will serve to reinforce the long-standing bond of friendship between the countries.

Ex Aviaindra 2018: Ex AVIAINDRA, a service-specific exercise between Indian Air Force and Russian Federation Aerospace Force (RFSAF), is planned at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 10-21 Dec 2018.

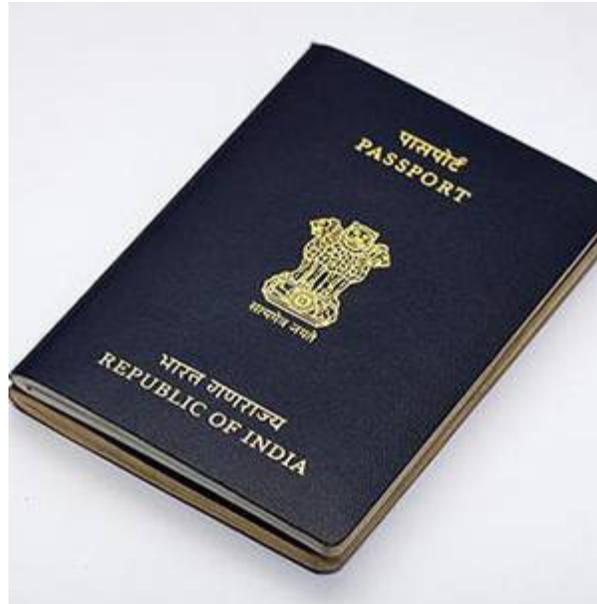
1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management

Context: The first International Conference under the aegis of National Hydrology Project, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is being organised by Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) during 10-11 December, 2018 at Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali on the theme 'Sustainable Water Management'.

The aim of the Conference is to-

- foster the participation of and dialogue between various stakeholders, including governments, the scientific and academic communities, so as to promote sustainable policies for water management
- create awareness of water-related problems, motivate commitment at the highest level for their solution and thus promote better management of water resources at local, regional, national and international levels.

Centre amends rules for minorities from three nations



News: The Union Home Ministry has notified amendments to the Citizenship Rules, 2009, to include a separate column in the citizenship form for applicants belonging to six minority communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

Upcoming Changes:

- Under the amendments, a separate entry in the form will ask the applicant whether they belong to one of the minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan as in Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis, Sikhs and Christians.
- The changes have been made by the centre under Section 18 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

- The Bill amends the Citizenship Act, 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan,

Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for citizenship.

- Under the Act, one of the requirements for citizenship by naturalisation is that the applicant must have resided in India during the last 12 months, and for 11 of the previous 14 years. The Bill relaxes this 11 year requirement to six years for persons belonging to the same six religions and three countries.
- The Bill provides that the registration of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders may be cancelled if they violate any law.

Key Issues:

- **Whether differentiating on grounds of religion is a violation of Article 14**
- The Bill provides that illegal migrants belonging to specified minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan will not be treated as illegal migrants under the Act, making them eligible for Indian citizenship. These minority communities are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians. This implies that illegal migrants from these countries who are Muslims, other minorities who do not belong to the above groups (eg. Jews), or Atheists who do not identify with a religious group will not be eligible for citizenship. The question is whether this provision violates the right to equality guaranteed under Article 14 of the Constitution because it provides differential treatment to illegal migrants on the basis of their religion.
- Article 14 guarantees equality to all persons, citizens and foreigners. It only permits laws to differentiate between groups of people if the rationale for doing so serves a reasonable purpose. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill does not explain the rationale behind differentiating between illegal migrants on the basis of the religion they belong to.

- The Bill allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. This is a wide ground that may cover a range of violations, including minor offences (eg. parking in a no parking zone).

Key Features

Definition of illegal migrants

- The Citizenship Act, 1955 prohibits illegal migrants from acquiring Indian citizenship. The Bill amends the Act to provide that the following minority groups will not be treated as illegal migrants: Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. However, to get this benefit, they must have also been exempted from the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 by the central government.

Citizenship by naturalisation

- The 1955 Act allows a person to apply for citizenship by naturalisation if he meets certain qualifications. One of these is that the person must have resided in India or served the central government for a certain period of time: (i) for the 12 months immediately preceding the application for citizenship, and (ii) for 11 of the 14 years preceding the 12-month period. For people belonging to the same six religions and three countries, the Bill relaxes the 11-year requirement to six years.

Cancellation of registration of Overseas Citizen of India cardholder

- The 1955 Act provides that the central government may cancel registration of OCIs on certain grounds, including: (i) if the OCI had registered through fraud, or (ii) if within five years of registration, the OCI was sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more. The Bill adds one more ground for cancelling registration, that is, if the OCI has violated any law in the country.

Khelo India Youth Games

Context: Khelo India Youth Games to be held in Pune known as the city of students.

Khelo India Programme

- It will be a Central Sector Scheme (Scheme implemented by the Central Government machinery and 100% funding by the union government).
- It is a Pan India Sports Scholarship scheme covering the 1000 most deserving and talented athletes across the sports discipline, every year.
- Selected athletes will be entitled to a scholarship amount of Five Lakh Rupees for eight consecutive years.
- It is an unprecedented scheme, a first-ever plan to be implemented for creating a long-term development pathway for athletes.
- To enable the sportsman to pursue both studies and sports, the program aims at identifying and promoting 20 Universities in the country as centres of sporting distinction.
- For sports promotion, latest user-friendly technology would be used. Ex: Geographic Information System (GIS) for locating the sports infrastructure, a user-friendly website for indigenous sports, a National Sports Talent Search Portal and information dissemination for the purpose of sports training through mobile apps.
- To ensure maximum entries for organized sports competitions, the programme encourages the school and colleges to organize programmes of high standards.
- Forming an active population with a healthy lifestyle is also the focus of this programme. For this purpose, a National Physical Fitness Drive is planned where children falling in the age bracket 10-18 years will be checked for

physical fitness. Further, activities to support their physical fitness will be planned.

- The aim is to impact the whole of sports ecosystem inclusive of sports economy, competition structure, talent identification, coaching and infrastructure.
- The programme plans to engage youth living in deprived and disturbed areas into sporting activities so that they will be mainstreamed into the process of nation-building and weaned away from disruptive activities.

India's first underwater museum to open off Puducherry coast in INS Cuddalore

- On December 8, 2018, **Indian Navy** agreed to gift **INS Cuddalore**, a decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel, to the **Union territory of Puducherry** for the creation of country's first underwater museum.

A NEW HOME TO MARINE LIFE

- > **INS Cuddalore**, a decommissioned Pondicherry-class vessel, will be sent to the seabed at a depth of 26m
- > The 60-metre-long and 12-metre-wide vessel will be a destination for scuba diving and snorkelling
- > There will be trails and routes for divers to swim in and out of the ship as they watch a colourful marine ecosystem grow



- The 60 m long and 12 m wide vessel was decommissioned in March 2018 after sailing 13000 nautical miles.

- It would be sent to the sea bed at a depth of 26 m and 7 km off the Pondicherry coast to act as an underwater marine museum for scuba diving and snorkelling activities. This would enhance tourism in the UT.
- It would also help in enhanced marine biodiversity and boosting fishing industry.

IMF Chief Economist praises India's economic reforms during past 4 years



- International Monetary Fund's Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld has said that India's growth has been very solid over the past four years.
- He praised the fundamental economic reforms like the GST and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code carried out by the Modi government.

Govt notifies commonly used medical devices as drug



- Government has notified commonly used medical devices nebulizers, blood pressure monitors, digital thermometers and glucometers as drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It will enable the government to ensure their quality and performance.
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) will regulate the import, manufacture and sale of these devices from January 2020.
- The DTAB, the country's highest drug advisory body, had approved the proposal to include them under the purview of the Drug law. Currently, only 23 medical devices are monitored for quality by the country's drug regulator.

Sebi to relax listing norms for start-ups, rename it Innovators Growth Platform



- In a major push to kickstart listing of start-ups in India in a big way, capital markets regulator Sebi has lined up a slew of relaxations for new-age ventures.
- The proposed changes include renaming the Institutional Trading Platform that the regulator had created for such listings as Innovators Growth Platform.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had set up an expert group in June this year to review the start-up platform.
- The Group held extensive consultations with other stakeholders including start-ups, investors, bankers and wealth management firms and submitted its report to Sebi on the proposed changes.
- The changes include doing away with the requirement of at least 50 per cent of pre-issue capital being held by qualified institutional investors.