

CIVIL SERVICE DIGEST (CSD-Daily)

Dec 07, 2018

Patnaik seeks support of all CMs on Women's Reservation Bill



Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday wrote to Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories seeking their cooperation to ensure 33% reservation for women in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament.

- Earlier, he had urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to initiate steps to pass the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha.

- “The support of Chief Ministers in giving rightful places to women in society will give a new direction towards women empowerment,” Mr. Patnaik wrote in his letter.
- Stating that women have a major role to play in building the nation and society, he wrote: “Empowerment of women is empowerment of the nation. No household, no society, no state, no country has ever moved forward without empowering its women.”

Analysis of the issue

- B.R. Ambedkar once said that “political power is the key to all social progress”. What, then, to make of the fact that India—a country where women suffer substantially greater socio-economic disadvantages than Western democracies like Spain—has a cabinet that is only 22% female and a Lok Sabha that has a meagre 12% female representation?
- “Our dream of New India is an India where women are empowered, strengthened, where they become equal partners in the all-round development of the country.” Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Mann Ki Baat.
- Political parties in India tend not to follow provisions in their constitutions reserving seats for women in different committees. The second barrier is the lack of education and leadership training.
- Since women are not integrated in many local political processes initially, and, unlike men, are not part of the relevant social and power networks, women leaders are prone to inefficiencies.
- The Economic survey for 2017-18 tabled in Parliament said factors such as domestic responsibilities, prevailing cultural attitudes regarding roles of women in society and lack of support from family were among main reasons that prevented them from entering politics.

Guidelines for enhancing the credit discipline of large borrowers

- On December 5, 2018, **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued guidelines for enhancing the credit discipline of large borrowers by allowing a minimum of **40%** of the working capital to be drawn.
- According to the guidelines, large borrowers having working capital of **Rs. 150 crores** and above can draw a minimum loan component of **40%** of the capital.
- Also, the drawings in excess of the minimum 'loan component' threshold may be allowed in the form of cash credit facility.
- This will be effective from **April 1, 2019**.
- Further, the 40 per cent loan component will be revised to **60** per cent, with effect from **July 1, 2019**.

Annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018 to be held in Goa

Context: The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Government of Goa, is hosting the annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit in Goa on December 07, 2018.

About:

- The theme of the Summit is ‘Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India.’ The event will showcase the Indian startup opportunity for funds from around the world.
- The summit aims to attract more global capital into the country. The event will enable a dialogue between Government and experienced Venture Capital fund managers on ways to further promote the start-up ecosystem in India.
- The focus of the Summit is on the huge return-generating potential of India’s vast and diverse market monetized through cutting-edge technologies and supported by investor-friendly regulations.
- India has the world’s third largest startup base with more than 14,000 recognized Startups. More than 8,200 startups were recognized by DIPP in 2018 alone, leading to the creation of more than 89,000 new jobs this year, taking the total job creation contribution of recognized Startups to 1,41,775.

Trump agrees to reach trade deal with China in 90 days

- US President Donald Trump in a tweet said he agrees with a statement issued by China expressing full confidence that a trade deal between the two countries can be reached within the next 90 days.
- On Saturday, Mr Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on a truce in their escalating trade war during their meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Mr Trump agreed to suspend plans to raise tariffs on 200 billion Dollars worth of Chinese products from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.
- He warned that if the negotiations do not succeed within three months, the tariffs will be hiked as planned.

Exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018

Context: Exercise Hand-in-Hand is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India and China. The joint exercise for the year 2018 will be conducted from 10 to 23 December 2018 at Chengdu, China.

About:

- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.
- The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an International Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorist environment under UN mandate.
- Exercise Hand-in-Hand 2018 will go a long way to further cement relationship between both the nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing bonhomie at grassroots levels between the armies of both countries.

Development of a freight village in Varanasi

Context: The Ministry of Shipping has approved the development of a freight village in Varanasi adjoining the Inland Waterways Terminal on River Ganga.

About:

- It will serve as a cargo hub, and a centre for aggregation and value addition. It will also provide support to stimulate development of a professional logistics industry in Varanasi.

- A freight village is a designated area where facilities for various modes of transportation, distribution of goods and other logistics are available in a synchronized manner on a large scale.
- The main function of freight villages is the management and utilization of various modes of transport, synergizing them and decongesting the existing mode of transportation.
- A World Bank pre-feasibility study has found Varanasi to be a suitable site for the freight village. The city is located strategically and is a focal point in the logistics chain of Eastern Transport Corridor of India where the National Waterways-1, Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), National Highway-7 and National Highway-2 pass through.

India opposes move to declare Gilgit-Baltistan as fifth province



Any attempt by Pakistan to change the legal status has no basis whatsoever. India has called upon Pakistan to vacate all occupied territory.

CIC vacancies to be filled on Dec. 11, Centre tells Supreme Court

- Appointments to fill at least four vacancies on the Central Information Commission will be finalised on December 11, the Centre told the Supreme Court this week, according to one of the petitioners in the case.

Details of the issue

- The government's counsel also informed the court that the Centre intends to amend the Right to Information (RTI) Act, said the petitioner Anjali Bhardwaj.
- The 11-member Commission, the highest appeal body available to applicants seeking information under the RTI Act, is currently operating with only three members in the wake of multiple retirements. The eight vacancies include the Chief Information Commissioner, who completed his tenure last month.
- While the Centre listed the RTI Amendments Bill, 2018, for introduction in the monsoon session of Parliament, Opposition MPs had protested, citing concerns that the proposed amendments to salary and tenure norms would compromise the independence of the commissions at the Central and State levels.
- Apart from the CIC, a number of State Information Commissions (SICs) are also operating with multiple vacancies, leading to a rising pendency of cases, petitioners told the apex court.

Central Information Commission (CIC)

- CIC was established in 2005 by Central Government under provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act (2005).
- The Chief Information Commissioner heads the Central Information Commission.
- The general superintendence, direction and management of affairs of Commission are vested in Chief Information Commissioner who is assisted by Information Commissioners.
- CIC hears appeals from information-seekers who have not been satisfied by the public authority, and also addresses major issues concerning the RTI Act.
- CIC submits annual report to Union government on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act.
- The central government in turn places this report before each house of Parliament.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of – The Prime Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee; the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha; a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.

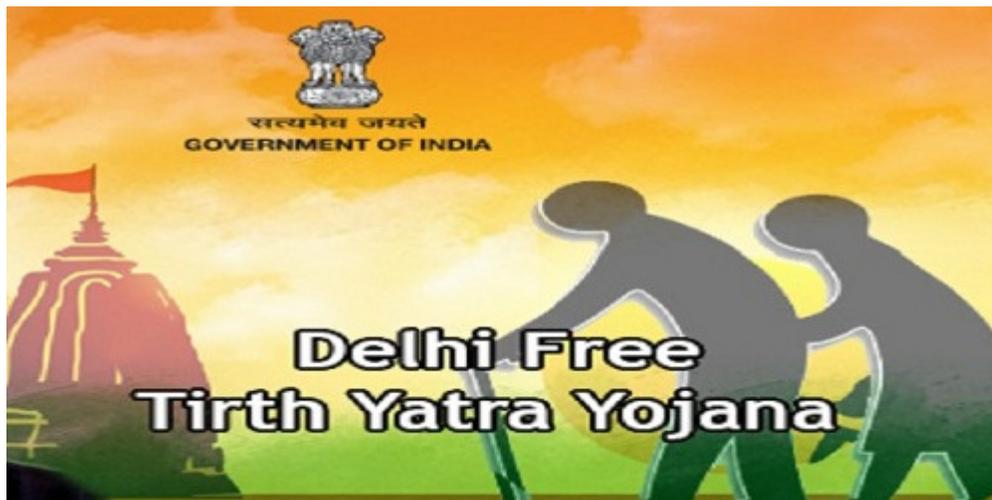
Functions and Powers of CIC

- It can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds.
- It can secure compliance of its decisions from the public authority.
- It can recommend steps to be taken for promoting such conformity, if public authority does not conform to provisions of RTI Act.
- It receives and inquires into a complaint from

- It examines any record which is under control of the public authority and which may be withheld from it on any grounds during the enquiry. While inquiring, it has powers of civil court.

‘MukhyamantriTeerthYatraYojana

On December 6, 2018, Delhi Chief Minister ArvindKejriwal launched a **3 day, 2 night** free pilgrimage scheme, consisting of on **five** religious circuits, for senior citizens named- the **‘MukhyamantriTeerthYatraYojana’**.



- The AAP government will bear the expenses of **77,000** pilgrims every year although preference would be given to economically backward families.
- On an average, the scheme will incur a cost of **Rs 7000 per pilgrim** and would cover an insurance of **Rs. 1 lakh** for each pilgrim.
- Under this scheme, **1,100** senior citizens, above 60 years, from each of the 70 assembly constituencies in Delhi can undertake free pilgrimage.

- The beneficiaries above the age of 70 can take an attendant above the age of 20 years and the beneficiaries would be certified via the respective area lawmakers.
- The pilgrimage for three days and two nights would be undertaken on the circuits of:
 - Delhi-Mathura-Vrindavan-Agra-FatehpurSikri-Delhi;
 - Delhi-Haridwar-Rishikesh-Neelkanth-Delhi;
 - Delhi-Ajmer-Pushkar-Delhi;
 - Delhi-Amritsar-Wagah border-Anandpur Sahib-Delhi; and
 - Delhi-Vaishno Devi-Jammu-Delhi.

The Delhi government has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian railways to cater to the pilgrims availing the scheme