

Contents

Environment.....	1
World Sustainable Development Summit 2021.....	1
Science and Technology.....	1
Gaganyaan Mission.....	1
Polity	1
President's Rule	1
UAPA Act:.....	2
Motion of Thanks	2
Legislations and Schemes	3
Nai Roshni Scheme:.....	3
News in Short.....	3
Synthetic Aperture Radar:	3
Shahtoot dam:.....	3
Important Types of Crude Oil.....	4
Places in News.....	4
Pangong Tso.....	4
HinduKush Himalayan (HKH) Region.....	4

Environment

World Sustainable Development Summit 2021

Why in News?

The Indian Prime Minister will inaugurate the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 on 10th February.

Related Information:

- Theme: Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all.
- It is the 20th edition of **The Energy and Resources Institute's** (TERI) flagship event.
- The Summit will bring together a wide number of governments, business leaders, academicians, climate scientists, youth, and civil society in the fight against climate change.
- Key partners of the Summit: India's Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ministry of New and

Renewable Energy, and Ministry of Earth Sciences

Science and Technology

Gaganyaan Mission

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of Science and Technology informed that the human spaceflight module of Gaganyaan will be launched after the second unmanned mission planned in 2022-23.

About Gaganyaan Mission:

- Gaganyaan is a mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Under the Mission:
 - Three flights will be sent into orbit.
 - There will be two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight.
- The Gaganyaan system module, called the **Orbital Module** will have **three Indian astronauts, including a woman**.
- It will circle Earth at a **low-earth-orbit** at an altitude of 300-400 km from earth for 5-7 days.
- It will be launched by **GSLV Mk III**, also called the LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3,) the three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle,
- The mission will have **Russian support** in the selection of candidates, their medical examination, and space training of astronauts.

Polity

President's Rule

Why in News?

The Supreme Court has dismissed a PIL that sought imposition of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh for alleged breakdown of constitutional machinery and rising crime in the state.

About President's Rule:

- Article 356 of the Constitution of India gives the **President of India** the power to suspend state government and impose President's rule of any state in the country if "if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the

state cannot be carried on in **accordance with the provisions of the Constitution**".

- It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.

Implications after imposition:

- Upon the imposition of this rule, the Council of Ministers will be immediately dissolved.
- The state will fall under the direct control of the Union government, and the Governor will continue to be the head the proceedings, representing the President of India.

Parliamentary Approval and Duration:

- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by **both** the Houses of Parliament within **two months** from the date of its issue.
- The approval takes place through **simple majority** in either House, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- Initially valid for six months, the President's Rule can be extended for a **maximum period of three years** with the **approval of the Parliament**, every **six months**.

Role of Report of the Governor:

- Under Article 356, President's Rule is imposed if the President, upon receipt of the report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Revocation:

- A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the **President** at any time by a subsequent proclamation.
- Such a proclamation **does not** require parliamentary approval.

UAPA Act:

According to data recently presented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, only 2.2% of cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 between the years 2016-2019 ended in convictions by court.

Key Provisions of UAPA Act, 1967:

- Till the year 2004, "unlawful" activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory. Following the 2004 amendment, "**terrorist act**" was added to the list of offences.
- The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an **Official Gazette**, declare it so.
- Both **Indian and foreign** nationals can be charged.
- It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.

Key provisions of UAPA (Amendment) in 2019:

- It can designate individuals as terrorists if the **individual** commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- A similar provision already existed UAPA, 1967 for organisations that can be designated as a "**terrorist organisation**".
- The Act also empowers the officers of the **NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above**, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.

Motion of Thanks

Why in News?

The discussion on motion of thanks to Presidential Address is undergoing in Lok Sabha presently.

Presidential Address:

- Article 87 provides for the special address by the President. It provides two special occasions on which the President addresses a **joint sitting**:
 - At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and
 - At the commencement of the first session of each year.

Content of the President's Address:

- The President's Address is the statement of policy of the Government and, as such, is drafted by the Government.
- The Address contains a review of various activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies, projects and programmes which Government of the day wishes to pursue with regard to the important national and international issues.

Discussion on the Address by Motion of Thanks:

- The Address of the President, which corresponds to the 'speech from the Throne in Britain', is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the 'Motion of Thanks'.

Procedure:

- It is available to the members of Parliament to raise discussions and debates to examine and criticise the government and administration for its lapses and failures.
- **Generally**, three days are allotted for the discussion on the Motion of Thanks.
- If any of the amendments are put forward and accepted then the Motion of Thanks is adopted in the amended form.
- Amendments may refer to matters contained in the Address as well as to matters which, in the opinion of the member, the **Address has failed to mention**.
- At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.

Significance of Motion of Thanks:

- The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House.
- Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.
- It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a lack of confidence in the government.

Legislations and Schemes

Nai Roshni Scheme:

Why in News?

Nai Roshni, a scheme for **Leadership Development of Minority Women** is being implemented across India.

Related Information:

- Ministry: Ministry of Minority affairs
- Aim: To empower and instil confidence in women by providing knowledge, tools, and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks, and other institutions at all levels.
- The scheme provides for six days training programme followed by handholding for one year.
- Implementing Agency: The Scheme is being implemented through **NGOs enrolled** under the Nai Roshni Scheme.

News in Short

Synthetic Aperture Radar:

- Synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) is a form of **radar** that is used to create **two-dimensional images or three-dimensional** reconstructions of objects, such as landscapes.
- SAR uses the motion of the radar antenna over a target region to provide finer spatial resolution than conventional beam-scanning radars.

Shahtoot dam:

- The project is a part of the New Development Partnership between India and Afghanistan.

- The dam would come upon the **Maidan river** tributary of **Kabul river**.
- This is the second major dam being built by India in Afghanistan, after the India – Afghanistan Friendship Dam [**Salma Dam**], which was inaugurated in June 2016.

Important Types of Crude Oil

- **Brent crude oil** originates from oil fields in the North Sea between the Shetland Islands and Norway.
- **West Texas Intermediate (WTI)** is sourced from US oil fields, primarily in Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota.

Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness (KAPILA) scheme:

- This scheme is being implemented by **Ministry of Education**.
- The objective of the scheme include:
 - Creating awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
 - Enabling of IP protection of inventions originating from faculty and students of HEIs.
 - Training program on IPR for faculty and students of HEIs and sensitization and development of vibrant IP filing system.

Places in News

Pangong Tso

- Situated at over 14,000 feet, Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is about 135 km long.
- It is formed from **Tethys geosyncline**.
- It is a **saltwater** lake.
- Location:



HinduKush Himalayan (HKH) Region

- The HKH region spans Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- It is considered the **Third Pole** (after the North and South Poles), and has significant implications for climate.
- It contains vast **cryospheric zones** (frozen water parts) and is also the world's largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region.

