



CHROME IAS

Giving Wings To Your Dreams !!!



CHROME IAS ACADEMY

INDEX

GIST OF EDITORIAL MONTHLY COMPILATION SEPTEMBER - 2020

S. No.	Area	Topics	Page No.
1.	General Studies-I	Permanent Commission to Women Officers in Indian Army	02
2.	General Studies- III	Special Frontier Force (SFF)	02
3.	General Studies-III	Project Dolphin: Why it is Important to Save a Declining River Species	03
4.	General Studies-II	The Basic Structure of the Constitution and The Signature of Kesavananda Bharati	04
5.	General Studies-III	In India-China Standoff in Ladakh, why Chushul is critical?	05
7.	General Studies-II	What is the 'green-blue' policy proposed by Delhi master plan 2041?	06
8.	General Studies-II	What Astrazeneca Vaccine Trial's Pause Means for Vaccines	07
9.	General Studies-II	A Breach of Legislature's Privilege	08
10.	General Studies- II	Glimmer of Hope: On India-China Five-Point Consensus	09
11.	General Studies-II	The Second Chair: On Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker	10
12.	General Studies- III	Why question hour matters?	10
13.	General Studies- III	Phosphine: Venus in Focus	12
14.	General Studies- III	UP'S New Special Security Force (UPSSF)	12
15.	General Studies- III	Solar Cycle 25	13
16.	General Studies- II	When can MPS be suspended from the house?	14
17.	General Studies- II	United Nations, and Its Growth In the last 75 Years	15
18.	General Studies- II	Changes in Labour Laws: The Industrial Relations Code	17

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

GIST OF EDITORIALS 3rd SEPTEMBER, 2020

PERMANENT COMMISSION TO WOMEN OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY

GENERAL STUDIES- I (ROLE OF WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS)

With the grant of permanent commission, women officers of the Indian Army will have clarity on their career paths.

The Supreme court Judgement

The Supreme Court of India, on February 17, delivered a much-anticipated ruling that allows women to serve as permanently commissioned (PC) officers in 10 combat support arms and services of the Indian Army.

The Supreme Court also directed the central Government to rescind the embargo on command appointments for women officers.

1. **Women officers are be eligible to tenant all the command appointments, at par with male officers**, which would open avenues for further promotions to higher ranks for them.
2. The court dismissed the government's stand that **only women officers with less than 14 years of service ought to be considered for permanent commission**, and those with over 20 years service should be pensioned immediately.
3. **The court has done away with all discrimination on the basis of years of service** for grant of PC in 10 streams of combat support arms and services, bringing them on a par with male officers.

Key observations made by the Court

- It rejected arguments against greater role for women officers, saying these **violated equality under law (Article 14)**.
- The **biological argument was also rejected as disturbing**.
- The **government's arguments, are based on sex stereotypes** premised on assumptions about socially ascribed roles of gender which discriminate against women (Article 16).
- It had also said that it only shows the need **"to emphasise the need for change in mindsets to bring about true equality in the Army"**.

Significance

When parity of allowing entry of women as permanent cadre is attained, it would truly be a level-playing field in terms of equal opportunity and career advancement.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 4th SEPTEMBER, 2020

SPECIAL FRONTIER FORCE (SFF)

GENERAL STUDIES- III (VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES AND AGENCIES)

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

There have been reports that a Special Frontier Force (SFF) unit, has been instrumental in occupying some key heights on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in Ladakh to thwart any occupation by the Chinese troops.

What is the Special Frontier Force (SFF)?

- SFF was raised in the **immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war**.
- It was a covert outfit which **recruited Tibetans (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas)** and initially went by the **name of Establishment 22**.
- Special Frontier Force **falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat** where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- The units that comprise the **SFF are known as Vikas battalions**.

Are SFF units part of the Army?

- The **SFF units are not part of the Army** but they function under operational control of the Army.
- The units have their own rank structures which have equivalent status with Army ranks.
- However, **they are highly trained special forces** personnel who can undertake a variety of tasks which would normally be performed by any special forces unit.
- Incidentally, **women soldiers too form a part of SFF units and perform specialised tasks**.

What are the major operations in which SFF units has taken part?

There are several **overt and covert operations** in which SFF units have taken part over the years.

- They took part in operations in the **1971 war, Operation Blue Star in Golden Temple Amritsar, Kargil conflict and in counter-insurgency operations in the country**.
- **In 1971**, the SFF operated in the Chittagong hill tracts in East Pakistan (later Bangladesh) to **neutralise Pakistan Army positions and help the Indian Army advance ahead**.
- The operation was code-named '**Operation Eagle**'.
- There are several other operations too in which the SFF has participated but the **details are classified**.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 5th SEPTEMBER, 2020

PROJECT DOLPHIN: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO SAVE A DECLINING RIVER SPECIES

GENERAL STUDIES- III (CONSERVATION)

Aquatic life is an indicator of the health of river ecosystems. As the Gangetic dolphin is at the top of the food chain, protecting the species and its habitat will ensure conservation of aquatic lives of the river.

What will Project Dolphin do?

Project Dolphin will be on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped increase the tiger population.

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), has been taking some initiatives for saving dolphins.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

- Now, **Project Dolphin** is expected to be implemented by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.

What is the Gangetic dolphin?

The Gangetic river system is home to a vast variety of aquatic life, including the **Gangetic dolphin (Platanista gangetica)**.

- The Gangetic dolphin is **one of five species of river dolphin found around the world**.
- It is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, **particularly in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems**.
- The breeding season of the Gangetic dolphin extends from January to June.
- **They feed on several species of fishes, invertebrates etc.**

What has been done to save Gangetic dolphins so far?

The Gangetic dolphin is listed as **endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.

- **Wildlife Act Protection:** After the launch of Ganga Action Plan in 1985, the government on November 24, 1986 included Gangetic dolphins in the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.
- **Conservation Plan:** The government also prepared The **Conservation Action Plan for the Ganges River Dolphin 2010-2020**, which “identified threats to Gangetic Dolphins and impact of river traffic, irrigation canals and depletion of prey-base on Dolphins populations”.
- **National Aquatic Animal:** On October 5, 2009, the Prime Minister, declared the Gangetic river dolphin as the national aquatic animal. Now, the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrates **October 5 as National Ganga River Dolphin Day**.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 7th SEPTEMBER, 2020

THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE SIGNATURE OF KESAVANANDA BHARATI

GENERAL STUDIES- II (INDIAN CONSTITUTION)

The landmark ruling in which the Supreme Court announced the basic structure doctrine was in the case of **Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru and Ors v State of Kerala**. **Kesavananda Bharati, the man who lent his name to this iconic case as the petitioner, died on Sunday.**

The ruling is considered among the most consequential decisions by the Supreme Court as it **set out the “basic structure” of the Constitution that Parliament cannot amend.**

Who was Kesavananda Bharati?

- Kesavananda Bharati was the **head seer of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala since 1961**.
- He left his signature in one of the significant rulings of the Supreme Court when he challenged the Kerala land reforms legislation in 1970.
- **A 13-judge Bench was set up by the Supreme Court, the biggest so far, and the case was heard over 68 working days spread over six months.**

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

- However, **the basic structure doctrine**, which was evolved in the majority judgment, was found in the conclusions of the opinion written by one judge — Justice H R Khanna.

What was the case about?

The case was primarily about the extent of Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.

- First, **the court was reviewing a 1967 decision in Golaknath v State of Punjab** which, reversing earlier verdicts, had ruled that Parliament cannot amend fundamental rights.
- Second, the court was deciding **the constitutional validity of several other amendments**.

What did the court decide?

- In its majority ruling, the court held **that fundamental rights cannot be taken away by amending them**.
- While the court said that **Parliament had vast powers to amend the Constitution**, but the **amendment would not violate the "basic structure" of the Constitution**.

What is the basic structure doctrine?

The **origins of the basic structure doctrine** are found in the **German Constitution** which, after the Nazi regime, was amended to protect some basic laws.

In India, the basic structure doctrine has formed the bedrock of judicial review of all laws passed by Parliament. No law can impinge on the basic structure. What the basic structure is, however, has been a continuing deliberation.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 8th SEPTEMBER, 2020

IN INDIA-CHINA STANDOFF IN LADAKH, WHY CHUSHUL IS CRITICAL?

GENERAL STUDIES- III (SECURITY CHALLENGES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT IN BORDER AREAS)

The Chushul sub-sector has **come into focus in the standoff between the Indian and PLA troops** following the movement that took place on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

What is the Chushul sub-sector?

- The Chushul sub-sector **lies south of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh**.
- It comprises high, broken mountains and heights of several Hill besides passes such as **Rezang La and Requin La, the Spanggur Gap, and the Chushul valley**.
- Situated at a height of over 13,000 feet close to the LAC, the **Chushul Valley has a vital airstrip that played an important role even during the 1962 War with China**.

Strategic importance to India

- Chushul enjoys tremendous strategic and tactical importance because of its location and terrain, which make it a centre for logistics deployment.
- This sector has plains that are a couple of kilometres wide, where mechanised forces, including tanks, can be deployed. Its airstrip and connectivity by road to Leh add to its operational advantages.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

How is Chushul important to China?

- Simply put, **Chushul is the gateway to Leh**. If China enters Chushul, it can launch its operations for Leh.
- After the initial attacks, including on the Galwan valley by the Chinese in October 1962, the PLA troops prepared to attack Chushul airfield and the valley to get direct access to Leh.

What are the future challenges in this area?

- An immediate challenge is of a flare-up as troops of the two countries are deployed within a distance of 800 to 1,000 metres of each other **at Black Top and Requin La**.
- At this point, **villagers of Chushul are being of great help**.
- Chushul village in Durbuk tehsil is home to around 170 families, most of whom are of Tibetan descent. The villagers have been ferrying water and essential commodities to the Indian troops deployed at Black Top.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 9th SEPTEMBER, 2020

WHAT IS THE 'GREEN-BLUE' POLICY PROPOSED BY DELHI MASTER PLAN 2041?

GENERAL STUDIES- II (GOVERNMENT POLICIES)

It is an urban planning concept which sees water bodies and land as being interdependent, and symbiotic, while offering environmental and social benefits.

Delhi Master Plan 2041

- It is a **vision document of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)** for the city's development over the next two decades.
- There are several features in the draft policy but the focus on water bodies and the land around it, which is referred to as the **"Green-Blue policy"**, promises to give the city a new shape.

What is Green-Blue infrastructure?

- **'Blue' infrastructure refers to water** bodies like rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, floodplains, and water treatment facilities; while **'Green'** stands for trees, lawns, hedgerows, parks, fields, and forests.
- The concept refers to urban planning where water bodies and land are interdependent, and grow with the help of each other while offering environmental and social benefits.

What are the challenges?

- The biggest challenge here is the multiplicity of agencies.
- DDA wants to bring together different agencies like Delhi Jal Board, Flood and Irrigation Department, and municipal corporations as stakeholders in the project.
- In a city where even waterlogging turns into a blame game between different warring agencies, this will be a tough task, especially as DDA has no supervisory power over these bodies.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

A similar attempt made by DDA earlier, where a special task force was created to check dumping of waste in Yamuna, has not been successful.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 10th SEPTEMBER, 2020

WHAT ASTRAZENECA VACCINE TRIAL'S PAUSE MEANS FOR VACCINES

GENERAL STUDIES- II (ISSUES RELATING TO HEALTH)

Global pharma major AstraZeneca announced late on Tuesday evening that it was putting a halt on ongoing clinical trials for a coronavirus vaccine it is developing in collaboration with Oxford University.

It said it was a “voluntary” and “routine action” that happens “whenever there is a potentially unexplained illness in one of the trials”.

About the vaccine

ChAdOx1 COVID-9 was jointly developed by **British-Swedish Company AstraZeneca** and the University of Oxford.

- It has been found to be safe and induced an immune response in early-stage clinical trials.
- The Oxford-AstraZeneca candidate vaccine is undergoing phase-3 clinical trials at more than 60 locations in the US, Brazil and South Africa.
- It is the same vaccine that was cleared for combined phase-2 and phase-3 trials in India. The trials in India began last month, and about 100 participants have received the dose.

Why have the Oxford-AstraZeneca candidate vaccine trials been halted?

- Though AstraZeneca did not specify what exactly had happened, it has been reported that a trial participant in England developed “serious adverse” illnesses.
- As of now, it is not even clear whether the “adverse event” is even a result of the vaccine.

What does it mean for the trials now?

- This is a temporary pause, **to investigate the illness in the affected patient**, though it is not clear how long that is going to take.
- As of now, there do not appear to be any serious question marks over the safety of the vaccine, because such incidents are not uncommon in trials for vaccines or drugs.

What are these larger implications?

In the current rush to produce a coronavirus vaccine as early as possible, several usual regulatory procedures have been bypassed, raising concerns amongst experts and scientists.

By all accounts, a coronavirus vaccine is expected to be ready by early next year. That itself would have made it the fastest developed vaccine, ever.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 11th SEPTEMBER, 2020

GENERAL STUDIES- II (SEPARATION OF POWERS)

Arnab Goswami and Kangana Ranaut faces privilege motions in the Maharashtra Assembly and Maharashtra Legislative Council respectively.

Which provisions of the Constitution protect the privileges of the legislature?

- The powers, privileges and immunities of either House of the Indian Parliament and of its Members and committees are laid down in **Article 105 of the Constitution**.
- **Article 194 deals with** the powers, privileges and immunities of the State Legislatures, their Members and their committees.

What constitutes legislature's privilege?

Parliamentary privilege refers to the right and immunity enjoyed by legislatures, in which legislators are granted protection against civil or criminal liability for actions done or statements made in the course of their legislative duties.

What constitutes a breach of this privilege?

While the Constitution has accorded special privileges and powers to parliamentarians and legislators to maintain the dignity and authority of the Houses, **these powers and privileges are not codified**.

- **Any act that obstructs or impedes either House of the state legislature in performing its functions**, or which obstructs or impedes any Member or officer of such House in the discharge of his duty, or has a tendency, directly or indirectly, **to produce such results is treated as breach of privilege**.
- **It is a breach of privilege and contempt of the House** to make speeches or to print or publish libel reflecting on the character or proceedings of the House, or its Committees, or on any member of the House for or relating to his character or conduct as a legislator.

What is the procedure to be followed in cases of alleged breach of the legislature's privilege?

- The Legislative Assembly Speaker or Legislative Council Chairman **constitutes a Privileges Committee consisting of 15 members in the Assembly and 11 members in the Council**.
- The members to the committee are nominated based on the party strength in the Houses.

What is the punishment for an individual who is found guilty of breaching the legislature's privilege?

- The punishment can include communicating the displeasure of the state legislature to the offender, summoning the offender before the House and giving a warning, and even sending the offender to jail.
- In the case of the media, press facilities of the state legislature may be withdrawn, and a public apology may be sought.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 12th SEPTEMBER, 2020

GLIMMER OF HOPE: ON INDIA-CHINA FIVE-POINT CONSENSUS

GENERAL STUDIES- II (INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD- RELATIONS)

India and China have taken the first step to begin real disengagement at the border. The “**five-point consensus**” reached by the **Foreign Ministers of India and China in Moscow**, provides a glimmer of hope of a diplomatic solution.

Key consensus

The LAC remains tense, facing its worst crisis since 1962. Both sides have agreed to take guidance from previous understandings, including on “**not allowing differences to become disputes**”, a formulation of 2017 that **has not lived up to its promise**.

- **They agreed the current situation suits neither side**, troops should quickly disengage, maintain proper distance, and ease tensions.
- **Both sides said they would abide by all existing agreements**, continue dialogue, and expedite work on finding confidence building measures to maintain peace.

Concern remains

- At the same time, stark differences remain, **including on the key question of whether both sides will return to the status quo ante prior to China’s transgressions**.
- The issuing of the joint statement was somewhat unusually accompanied by separate press statements, which struck discordant notes on key issues.

Statements from both the Countries

- **India stressed** that peace on the boundary was essential for ties, and that recent incidents had impacted the broader relationship.
- **The Chinese statement**, on the other hand, sought to emphasise the importance of “moving the relationship in the right direction” and to put the border “in a proper context”.

Complexities in stands

- This characterisation of **India’s stand was a sharp contrast from Delhi’s recent public statements**, which have emphasised border peace as a prerequisite to taking forward the broader relationship.
- Moreover, a day before the talks, **China’s official news agency issued a commentary placing the onus entirely on India to defuse tensions**, accusing India of “reckless provocations”, telling India “to learn from history”, and reiterating that China “will not lose an inch of territory”.

Way forward

It is welcome that India and China have finally found something to agree on. Consensus in Moscow, however, is only the first step of a long road ahead.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 14th SEPTEMBER, 2020

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

THE SECOND CHAIR: ON LOK SABHA DEPUTY SPEAKER

GENERAL STUDIES- II (PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES – STRUCTURE)

More than a year after the 17th Lok Sabha was constituted, **the constitutionally mandated post of Deputy Speaker is lying vacant.**

About the Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker:

Article 91 of the Constitution provides that while the office of Speaker is vacant, or during any period when the Vice-President is acting, or discharging the functions of President, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Deputy Speaker.

- If **the office of Deputy Speaker is also vacant**, by such member of the Council of State as the President may appoint for the purpose.
- It further mentions **that during the absence of the Speaker from any sitting of the House**, the Deputy Chairman, or, if no such person, as may be determined by the Council shall act as Chairman.
- **Similar Constitutional provisions are there in respect to the position of the Deputy Speaker** of the Lok Sabha.

Authorities of Deputy Speaker

- The constitutional office of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is **more symbolic of parliamentary democracy than some real authority.**
- There is **no need to resign from their original party** though as a Deputy Speaker, they have to remain impartial.
- They act as the presiding officer in case of leave or in absence caused by death or illness of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Election

- Usually, the Deputy Speaker is **elected in the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after the General elections** from amongst the members of the Lok Sabha.
- It is by convention that **position of Deputy Speaker is offered to opposition party in India.**

Tenure and removal

- They hold office until either **they cease to be a member of the Lok Sabha or they resign.**
- They can be **removed from office by a resolution passed in the Lok Sabha by an effective majority of its members.**

Way forward

Election by consensus of an Opposition MP as Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha will be a course correction in this monsoon session of parliament. The government should be magnanimous and the Opposition creative in dealing with this issue.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 15th SEPTEMBER, 2020

WHY QUESTION HOUR MATTERS?

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES- III (INDIAN ECONOMY AND ISSUES RELATING TO PLANNING)

The decision to go without “Question Hour” during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, beginning September 14, has evoked serious concerns about the democratic functioning of the institution.

What is Question Hour?

Generally, **the first hour of a sitting of Lok Sabha is devoted to the Questions** and this hour is called the Question Hour.

- During the Question Hour **Members of Parliament ask questions of ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.**
- The questions that MPs ask are designed to elicit information and trigger suitable action by ministries.

What it is important?

- Question Hour is not only an opportunity for the members to raise questions, but **it is a parliamentary device primarily meant for exercising legislative control over executive actions.**
- The government's actions erode the constitutional mandate of **parliamentary oversight over executive actions as envisaged under Article 75 (3)** of the Indian Constitution.

Historical significance

The right to question the executive has been exercised by members of the House from the colonial period.

- **The first Legislative Council in British India under the Charter Act, 1853**, showed some degree of independence by giving members the power to ask questions to the executive.
- Later, **the Indian Council Act of 1861** allowed members to elicit information by means of questions.
- **The Indian Council Act, 1892**, which formulated the rules for asking questions including short notice questions.
- The next stage of the **development of procedures related to questions came up with the framing of rules under the Indian Council Act, 1909**, which incorporated provisions for asking supplementary questions by members.
- **The Montague-Chelmsford reforms** brought forth a significant change in 1919 by incorporating a rule that the **first hour of every meeting was earmarked for questions.**
- **In 1921, there was another change.** The question on which a member desired to have an oral answer, **was distinguished by him with an asterisk, a star.** This marked the beginning of starred questions.

Conclusion

These are democratic rights members of Parliament have enjoyed even under colonial rule. The sad part is that this right is being denied to the elected representatives of Independent India, by the present government.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 16th SEPTEMBER, 2020

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

PHOSPHINE: VENUS IN FOCUS

GENERAL STUDIES- III (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

The **discovery of Phosphine gas on Venus as a potential sign of life** on the glittering planet has made many scientists and astronomers ecstatic. This arises a **significant question whether we are alone in this solar system** or is there any form of life substantially existing elsewhere.

What is all about?

- Recently, Scientists have **detected in the harshly acidic clouds of Venus a gas called phosphine** that **indicates microbes may inhabit Earth's inhospitable neighbor**, a tantalizing sign of potential life beyond Earth.
- The researchers did not discover actual life forms, but noted that on Earth phosphine is produced by bacteria thriving in oxygen-starved environments.

What is Phosphine gas?

- Phosphine is a **colorless, flammable, very toxic gas compound** with the chemical formula PH_3 , classed as a pnictogen hydride.
- Apart from being produced in industrial processes, phosphine, **is known to be made only by some species of bacteria that survive in the absence of oxygen.**
- **Phosphine – a phosphorus atom with three hydrogen atoms attached – is highly toxic to people.**

Phosphine gas and planet Venus

The presence of phosphine in the atmosphere of Venus is something that was not expected and is “unexplained”. Phosphine was seen at 20 parts-per-billion in the Venusian atmosphere, a trace concentration.

- PH_3 (phosphene) **could originate from unknown photochemistry or geochemistry, or, by analogy with biological production of PH_3 on earth, from the presence of life.**
- If it's microorganisms, **they would have access to some sunlight and water**, and maybe live in liquid droplets to stop themselves dehydrating, but they would need some unknown mechanism to protect against corrosion by acid.

Planet Venus

- Venus is **Earth's closest planetary neighbor**. Similar in structure but slightly smaller than Earth, it is the second planet from the sun.
- Earth is the third. Venus is wrapped in a thick, toxic atmosphere that traps in heat.
- Surface temperatures reach a scorching 880 degrees Fahrenheit (471 degrees Celsius), hot enough to melt lead.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 17th SEPTEMBER, 2020

UP'S NEW SPECIAL SECURITY FORCE (UPSSF)

GENERAL STUDIES- III (VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES)

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

The **Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force Act, 2020** allows arrests without warrants. Its powers are in some ways similar to those of a few other central and state forces, but the UPSSF also differs from them in a few significant ways.

What is the UPSSF?

- The force was announced on **June 26, 2020**, after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked for the setting up of a CISF-like force to guard important institutions and persons.
- The proposed force was envisaged as having “high-level professional skills”, which would reduce the burden on the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC), which could then focus on law and order.
- It claimed that Maharashtra and Odisha had similar forces.

What it will do?

The new “state vital installation force” would protect courts, airports, banks, the Metro, industrial units, places of worship, as well as individuals, the government said.

Composition

The UPSSF will be led by an Additional Director General-level officer, followed by an Inspector General, Deputy Inspector General, Commandant, and Deputy Commandant.

So what is the controversy about?

- **UPSSF Act says:** “Any member of the force may, without any order from a Magistrate and without a warrant, arrest any person, who voluntarily causes hurt...”, or a person against whom there is a “reasonable suspicion”, or any person, who attempts to “commit a cognizable offence”.
- The force will also have the right to remove trespassers on the premises under its protection.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 18th SEPTEMBER, 2020

SOLAR CYCLE 25

GENERAL STUDIES- III (AWARENESS IN THE FIELD OF SPACE)

NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) jointly released a consensus statement announcing the commencement of solar cycle 25.

What is a solar cycle?

- Like seasons on Earth, the Sun follows a cycle of 11 years, during which solar activities fluctuate between **solar minima and maxima**.
- Depending on the number of sunspots detected on the Sun, scientists term it as **solar maxima (highest number of sunspots)** or **solar minima (lowest number of sunspots)**.
- Maxima or minima is not a specific time in the 11-year cycle, but is a period that can last for a few years.
- As the star governing our solar system, Sun’s activities impact Earth and the overall space weather

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

What are the Sunspots?

Sunspots are **small and dark, yet cooler areas formed on the solar surface, where there are strong magnetic forces.**

- They start appearing at Sun's higher latitudes and later shift towards the equator as a cycle progresses.
- In short, when the Sun is active, there are more sunspots in comparison to fewer sunspots during the lesser active phase.

How are solar cycles determined?

One of the important elements researchers look out for on the Sun's surface is the number of sunspots. **A new cycle commences** when the Sun has reached its lowest possible minima phase.

- **Every 11 years or so, the Sun's magnetic field completely flips.** This means that the Sun's north and south poles switch places. Then it takes about another 11 years for the Sun's north and south poles to flip back again.
- So far, astronomers have documented 24 such cycles, the last one ended in 2019.

Impacts of Solar Cycle on Earth

- Solar flares can cause lights in the sky, called aurora, or impact radio communications. Extreme solar eruptions can even affect electricity grids on Earth.
- Solar activity can affect satellite electronics and limit their lifetime.
- Radiation can be dangerous for astronauts who do work on the outside of the International Space Station.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2020

WHEN CAN MPS BE SUSPENDED FROM THE HOUSE?

GENERAL STUDIES- II (PARLIAMENT: FUNCTIONING & CONDUCT OF BUSINESS)

Eight Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended on September 21 for unruly behaviour in the House the previous day (September 20). The motion was passed by a voice vote.

What is the reason for suspending an MP?

The general principle is that **it is the role and duty of the Presiding Officer** — Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha — **to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.**

- The suspension of the eight members comes a day after the **Upper House witnessed massive unruly scenes by protesting Opposition members during the passage of two farm Bills.**
- In order to ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker/Chairman is empowered to force a Member to withdraw from the House.

What are the Rules under which the Presiding Officer acts?

- **Rule Number 373 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business says:** "*The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such*

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

Member to withdraw immediately from the House, and any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day's sitting."

- To deal with more recalcitrant Members, **the Speaker make take recourse to Rules 374 and 374A.**

The appropriation of barring of an elected representative

- The **Opposition members have accused the government of "murdering democracy"**. Every instance of suspension of an MP triggers strong statements on both sides.
- In general, a balance has to be struck. There can be no question that the enforcement of the supreme authority of the Presiding Officer is essential for smooth conduct of proceedings.
- However, it must be remembered that the job of the **Presiding Officer is to run the House, not to lord over it.**

Conclusion

The solution to **unruly behaviour has to be long-term and consistent with democratic values.**

- The **Speaker's/Chairman's actions are often dictated more by expediency and the stand of the party that they belong to**, rather than by the Rules and principles.
- So, the ruling party of the day invariably insists on the maintenance of discipline, just as the Opposition insists on its right to protest. And their positions change when their roles flip.

GIST OF EDITORIALS 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2020

UNITED NATIONS, AND ITS GROWTH IN THE LAST 75 YEARS

GENERAL STUDIES- II (IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS)

The United Nations completed 75 years this year. In order to commemorate the historic moment, world leaders come together at a one-day high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly.

The meeting, themed as **"The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism"**.

The birth of the United Nations

Background

The **United Nations was born out of the horrors of World War II**. At the time of its foundation, it was primarily tasked with the goal of maintaining world peace and saving future generations from the evils of war.

- The **League of Nations was created in June 1919, after World War I**, as part of the Treaty of Versailles.

CHROME IAS ACADEMY

- However, **when the Second World War broke out in 1939, the League closed down** and its headquarters in Geneva remained empty throughout the war.
- Consequently, **in August 1941, American president Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill** held a secret meeting aboard naval ships in Placentia Bay, located in the southeast coast of Newfoundland, Canada.
- The heads of the two countries discussed the possibility of creating a body for international peace effort and a range of issues related to the war. Together **they issued a statement that came to be called the Atlantic Charter.**
- **It was not a treaty, but only an affirmation that paved the way for the creation of the UN.**

The emergence of United Nations

The United States joined the war in December 1941, and for the **first time the term 'United Nations' was coined by president Roosevelt** to identify those countries which were allied against the axis powers.

- **On January 1, 1942, representatives of 26 allied nations met in Washington DC to sign the declaration of the United Nations**, which basically spelled out the war objectives of the Allied powers.
- Over the next couple of years, several meetings took place among the **Allied big four — The United States of America, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and China —** to decide on the post-war charter that would describe the precise role of the United Nations.
- **The United Nations finally came into existence on October 24, 1945** after being ratified by 51 nations, which included five permanent members (France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the UK and the US) and 46 other signatories.
- **The first meeting of the General Assembly took place on January 10, 1946.**

The four main goals of the UN included

- Maintaining international peace and security,
- Developing friendly relations among nations,
- Achieving international cooperation in solving international problems and
- Being at the center for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Summary of achievements of UN after its creation

- Soon after its formation, it passed a resolution to commit to **the elimination of nuclear weapons in 1946.**
- **In 1948, it created the World Health Organisation (WHO)** to deal with communicable diseases like smallpox, malaria, HIV. At present the WHO is the apex organisation dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.
- **In 1950, the UN created the High Commissioner for Refugees** to take care of the millions who had been displaced due to World War II. It continues to be on the frontlines of crises faced by refugees from countries across the world.
- **In 1972, the UN environment programme** was created.
- More recently in 2002, the UN established the UN criminal court to try those who have committed war crimes, genocide, and other atrocities.

CHANGES IN LABOUR LAWS: THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CODE

GENERAL STUDIES- II (GOVERNMENT POLICIES)

Three Codes on labour law were passed by Parliament recently, amid strident criticism and vociferous protests by many trade unions.

What are the main features of the Industrial Relations Code?

The Industrial Relations Code **combines the features of three erstwhile laws** — the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

- It defines **'workers'** to include, besides all persons employed in a skilled or unskilled, manual, technical, operational and clerical capacity, supervisory staff **drawing up to ₹18,000 a month as salary**.
- It introduces **'fixed term employment'**, giving employers the flexibility to hire workers based on requirement through a written contract.
- **Fixed term employees should be treated on a par with permanent workers** in terms of hours of work, wages, allowances and other benefits, including statutory benefits such as gratuity.
- The Code says any establishment **that employs 300 or more workers** must prepare standing orders relating to classification of workers, manner of intimating to them periods and hours of work, holidays, pay days etc.
- Earlier, **the 2019 Bill applied this to units with 100 employees or more**. The threshold has been raised to 300 in the 2020 Code.
- It confers on the **'appropriate Government'**, that is the Centre or the State governments, the **power to exempt, any industrial establishment or class of industrial establishments from all or any of the provisions of the Code**.

What are the provisions on lay-off and closure?

- The provisions that **require the prior permission of the government for lay-off**, retrenchment and closure are made **applicable to only establishments that had employed 300 or more workers** on an average per working day in the preceding 12 months.
- A prior permission requirement is in place also **for closure of a unit**, with the application to be **filed 90 days prior** to the intended closure.

How does the new Code affect the right to strike?

The Code **prohibits strikes and lock-outs in all industrial establishments** without notice.

- **No unit shall go on strike in breach of contract without giving notice 60 days before the strike**, or within 14 days of giving such a notice, or before the expiry of any date given in the notice for the strike.
- The **Industrial Disputes Act, 1947**, had placed such restrictions on announcing strikes only in respect of public utility services.
- However, **the present Code extends it to all establishments**.