GENERAL STUDIES – II
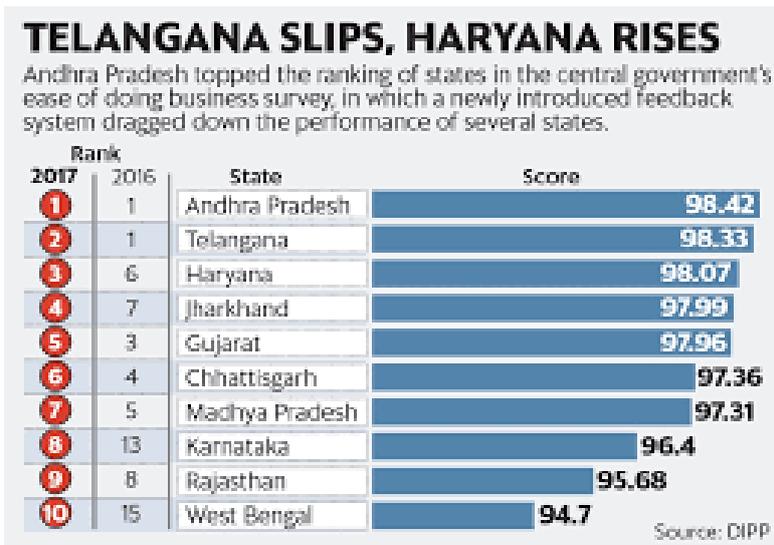
Topic:

- *Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.*
- *Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.*

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS RANKINGS OF STATES

About Ease of doing business ranking of states:
- The ease of doing business ranking of states of India is an **annual ease of doing business index** of states and union territories of India.
- It is based on the completion percentage scores of action items points of annual Business reform action plan under the Make in India initiative.
- This ranking is **done by the World bank since 2015** and facilitated by the **Ministry of Personnel, Public grievances of government of India.**
- Ranking of states is **not done on same criteria as ranking of nations** as well as it **does not reflect the level** of business conducive nature of states, it **reflects the willingness of states** to reform and attract investments.

Business reform action plan:
- The Business reform action plan was released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the World Bank.
- It includes 405 recommendations for reforms on regulatory processes, policies, practices, ad procedures.
- The Ease of doing business rankings are based on Business reform action plan.
- BRAP 2017 includes two new sectors --> Health care and Hospitality.

World Bank:
- The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries of the world for capital projects.
- It comprises of two institutions --> International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association.
- The World Bank is a component of the World bank group.
- **Headquarters** --> Washington D.C.

- It stated goal is the reduction of poverty which its Articles of Agreement defines commitments to the promotion of foreign investment and international trade and to the facilitation of capital investment.

World Bank group:
   The World Bank is different from the World Bank Group, an extended family of five international organizations:
- International bank for reconstruction and development.
- International Development association.
- International Financial Corporation.
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Highlights:
- Andhra Pradesh has topped the third edition of the government's 'Ease of Doing Business' index for States with a final score of 98.42%.
- This is the second time in a row that A.P. achieved the first rank.
- Telangana and Jharkhand trailed behind A.P. though they scored 100% in reform evidence score.
- **Criteria adopted :** States and UT's have conducted reforms to ease their regulations and systems in areas such as labour, environmental clearances, single window system, construction permits, contract enforcement, registering property and inspections.
- The current assessment under the BRAP 2017 is based on a combined score consisting of Reform evidence score that is based on evidences uploaded by the States and Feedback score that is based on the feedback garnered from the actual service provided to the businesses.
- It is for the first time that DIPP has introduced taking feedback to ensure that the reforms have actually reached ground level.

Recent news:
- A.P tops in 'Ease of Doing business.
- **Link** : https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/ap-tops-in-ease-of-doing-business/article24385596.ece
- **Link :** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/ease-of-doing-business-ranking-andhra-pradesh-tops-among-all-states-telangana-comes-2nd/articleshow/64933711.cms

Topic:
- *Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.*

EAT RIGHT MOVEMENT

- The Food safety and standards authority of India has unveiled "Eat right movement" built on two pillar boards of 'Eat Healthy' and 'Eat Safe'.
- It aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and wellbeing by making the right choices.

- It aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.

About FSSAI:
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is an autonomous body established under the Ministry of Health and family welfare.
- It is a statutory organisation established under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- It is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- **Composition:** Chairperson, Chief executive officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.

Recent news:
- FSSAI to launch movement for healthier FMCG food products.
- **Link :** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/fssai-to-launch-movement-for-healthier-fmcg-food-products/articleshow/64924715.cms

Topic:

- *Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.*
- *Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.*

INDIA CLIMBS 3 SPOTS TO 57TH IN GLOBAL INNOVATION RANKINGS

- India has consistently been climbing up the Global Innovation Index since 2015.
- The 2018 rankings released put India at 57th position and China at 17th position as compared to their last year rankings.

About global innovation index:
- The Global Innovation Index is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for and success in innovation.
- It is published by: Cornell university, INSEAD, and World Intellectual Property Organisation in partnership with other organisations and institutions.
- It is based in both subjective and objective data derived from several sources, including the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and World Economic Forum.
- GII is computed by taking simple average of two sub-indices: Innovation Input Index and Innovation Output index.

Recent news:
- India climbs 3 spots to 57th in global innovation rankings.
- **Link :** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-improves-its-global-innovation-index-ranking-climbs-up-the-list-third-year-in-a-row/articleshow/64935310.cms

Topic:

- *Governance and Justice – transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures; Judiciary reforms.*

CHOOSING A PARTNER IS A PERSONS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Introduction:
- The choice of the partner is a person's fundamental right and it can be from same sex --> Justice Chandrachud.

- The observation came on first day of hearing by a constitutional bench challenging the constitution validity of Section 377.
- India is one of the 72 countries in which homosexuality is a criminal offence according to the International count last updated in October 2017.

About Section 377:
- Section 377 of the Indian penal code, a colonial era practice that criminalises private consensual sex between adults.
- It provides for life imprisonment as maximum punishment.
- Eight countries provide for the death penalty.

Note:
- **Countries: Death penalty technically exists but not implemented** --> Pakistan, Afghanistan and Mauritania.
- **Countries: Death penalties implemented** -> Iran, Iraq, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Countries : Life imprisonment as punishment** --> India, Ethiopia etc

Recent news:
- Choosing a partner is a person's fundamental right.
- **Link :** https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/state-parents-cant-influence-an-adults-choice-of-partner/article24384163.ece

Topic:
- *Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.*

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights :

- The Human rights council is an intergovernmental body within the United Nations systems made up of 47 states responsible for the promotion of all human rights across the globe.
- It was established in 2006 as a part of the UN reform process, replacing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- **Headquarters --> Geneva**, Switzerland.
- Council members are elected by the General assembly with three year terms with a maximum if two consecutive years.
- Recently U.S has withdrawn from the human rights council.
- The role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights is often confused with the HRC.
- It is a separate institution which presents report independent of the HRC.

United Nations high commissioner for Human rights:
- The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights known as the Office of the High commissioner for Human rights is a United Nations agency.
- It works to promote and protect the human rights that are guaranteed under international law and stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human rights in 1948.
- The office was established by the UN general assembly on 20 December 1993 in the wake of the 1993 World Conference on Human rights.
- It is headed by the High Commissioner for human rights, who coordinates human rights activities throughout the UN system and supervises the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is an ex-officio member of the committee of the United Nations Development Group.

Recent news:
- Rhetoric and reality.
- **Link :** https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/rhetoric-and-reality-on-the-unhrc-and-human-rights/article24382547.ece

GENERAL STUDIES III

Topic:

- *Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.*
- *Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.*

PRSS -1 & PAK TES -1A

Highlight :
- China has launched two remote sensing satellite PRSS -1 and PakTes -1A of Pakistan on board of Long March - 2C rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.
- It was overall 279th mission for the Long March rocket series(mainly used to send satellites in to low earth or Sun- Synchronous orbits) and first international commercial launch in nearly decades after it carried Motorola's iridium satellites in to orbit in 1999.

About PRS - 1 :
- It is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan.
- PRS -1 is capable of carrying out day and night operations and also in clouded conditions.
- It will be used for land and resources surveying, agriculture, research, urban construction, monitoring of natural disasters.
- Provides remote sensing information for CPEC under China's one belt one road initiative.

About PAK TES -1 A :
- It is Pakistan indigenously developed scientific experiment satellite developed by research engineers from its space agency (SUPARCO).
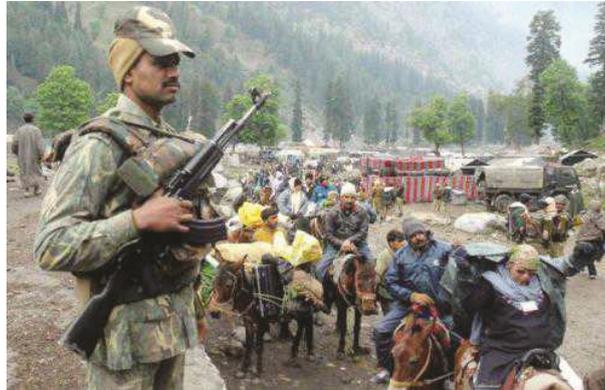
Recent news :
- China successfully launches 2 satellites for close ally Pakistan.
- **Link :** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/china-launches-two-satellites-for-pakistan/articleshow/64914577.cms

Topic:

- *Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate*
- *Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism..*

SATHI MOBILE APP

- The Central Reserve Police Force has launched a mobile help centre to reach out to people undertaking annual pilgrimage to 3,880 - metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath.
- It will provide help and information to yatris staying in camps outside Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu.

About Central Reserve police force:
- CRPF is the largest central armed police forces or paramilitary force in India with total 246 Battalion.
- It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was established under Ministry of Home Affairs in 1939 under Crown Representative police.
- But after independence it was made statutory police force after enactment of CRPF act.
- Its primary role is to assist states/union territories in police operations to maintain law and order and contain the insurgency.

Recent news:
- Jammu: CRPF launches mobile help centre 'Sathi' for Amarnath pilgrims.
- **Link** : https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/jammu-crpf-launches-mobile-help-centre-saathi-for-amarnath-pilgrims-118070901174_1.html

FACTS FOR PRELIMS

WORLDS LARGEST MOBILE FACTORY

- Modi and Moon inaugurate the world's largest mobile factory in Noida.
- Samsung aims to double production, make India export hub.
- It is in line with 'Make in India' initiative.

Recent news :
- Narendra Modi inaugurates world's largest mobile factory.
- **Link :** https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/narendra-modi-inaugurates-worlds-largest-mobile-factory-in-noida/articleshow/64917986.cms

BAIGA TRIBE

- **Location** --> Madhya Pradesh.
- They are ethnic group found in central India, primarily in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand.
- The largest number of Baigas are found in Baiga-chuk in Mandla District and Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh.
- They have sub castes - Bijhwar, Narotia,Bharotiya,Nahar, Rai Behna and Kadh Bhaina.

SAMRIDANGAM

- Kuzhalmannam Ramakrishnan developed a light weight version of South Indian percussion instrument mridangam.
- The patent office of Union government awarded the patent for the design to the innovative product.
- Controller general of patents, deigns and trademarks has given the patent under 'drum' category.
- It was made primarily of steel and fibre.
- He also introduced 'mridu' a unique percussion instrument.

Recent news :
- Light weight 'samridangam' finally gets patent.
- **Link :** https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/lightweight-sadmridangam-finally-gets-patent/article24374126.ece

WORLDS OLDEST BIOLOGICAL COLOUR

- Australian researchers have uncovered the world's oldest biological colour in the Sahara desert.
- The pink pigments were produced by simple microscopic organisms called cyanobacteria more than 1.1 billion year old. Some 500 million years older than previous colour pigment discoveries.

Recent news:
- World's oldest biological colour found.
- **Link :** https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/worlds-oldest-biological-colours-found/article24382030.ece