



# INNOVATIVE IAS

## Daily News Analysis

7th January 2020

### General studies-2

#### State can regulate minority institutions, says Supreme Court

##### **Why in News?**

- The Supreme Court has held that the state is well within its rights to introduce a regulatory regime in the “national interest” to provide minority educational institutions with well-qualified teachers in order for them to “achieve excellence in education.”
- The managements of minority institutions cannot ignore such a legal regime by saying that it is their fundamental right under Article 30 of the Constitution to establish and administer their educational institutions according to their choice.

##### **Key points:**

- The judgment came on a challenge to the validity of the West Bengal Madrasah Service Commission Act of 2008.
- The State Act mandated that the process of appointment of teachers in aided madrasahs, recognised as minority institutions, would be done by a Commission, whose decision would be binding.
- The apex court upheld the validity of the 2008 Act, saying the Commission was composed of persons with profound knowledge in Islamic Culture and Islamic Theology.

##### **TMA Pai Foundation case:**

- Referring to the 11-judge Bench decision in the TMA Pai Foundation case, Justice Lalit, who authored the verdict, said Article 30(1) (right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice) was neither absolute nor above the law.
- “When it comes to the right to appoint teachers, in terms of law laid down in the TMA Pai Foundation case, a regulation framed in the national interest must necessarily apply to all institutions regardless whether they are run by majority or minority as the essence of Article 30(1) is to ensure equal treatment between the majority and minority institutions.”

“An objection can certainly be raised if an unfavourable treatment is meted out to an educational institution established and administered by minority. But if ensuring of excellence in educational institutions is the underlying principle behind a regulatory regime and the mechanism of selection of teachers is so designed to achieve excellence in institutions, the matter may stand on a completely different footing,” Justice Lalit wrote.

#### Stressed urban cooperative banks to face PCA-like curbs

##### **Why in news?**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to impose restrictions on urban cooperative banks (UCBs) for deterioration of financial position, in line with the prompt corrective action



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(PCA) framework that is imposed on commercial banks.

- The move comes in the wake of the recent crisis at the PMC Bank.
- PCA is intended to intervene early and take corrective measures in a timely manner, so as to restore the financial health of banks that are at risk by limiting deterioration in their health and preserving their capital levels.

### Key points:

- Under the revised Supervisory Action Framework (SAF), UCBs will face restrictions for worsening of three parameters:
- When net non-performing assets exceed 6% of net advances.
- When they incur losses for two consecutive financial years or have accumulated losses on their balance sheets.
- If the capital adequacy ratio (CAR) falls below 9%.
- The RBI has said that action would be taken in case of serious governance issues.
- UCBs will be asked to submit a board-approved action plan to correct the situation like reducing net NPAs below 6%, for restoring the profitability and wiping out the accumulated losses, and increasing capital adequacy ratio to 9% or above within 12 months.
- The board of the UCB will be asked to review the progress under the action plan on a quarterly/monthly basis and submit the post-review progress report to the RBI.
- The RBI may also seek a board-approved proposal for merging the UCB with another bank or converting itself into a credit society if CAR falls below 9%.
- It can impose restrictions on declaration or payment of dividend or donation without prior approval if any one of the risk thresholds is breached.
- Some of the other curbs include restricting fresh loans and advances carrying risk-weights more than 100% on incurring capital expenditure beyond a specified limit and on the expansion of the balance sheet.
- The RBI said actions such as the imposition of all-inclusive directions under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and issue of show-cause notice for cancellation of banking licence may be considered when continued normal functioning of the UCB is no longer considered to be in the interest of its depositors/public.

### Doing away with ad hoc teachers

#### Why in news?

- Protest in Delhi by the Delhi University Teachers' Association.

#### Background:

- A circular issued by the Delhi University was seen by the ad hoc teachers who constitute an estimated 4,500 in Delhi University, as an attempt to hire them as guest teachers instead. Given that such a move would disadvantage them further has prompted the ad-hoc teachers to protest.



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- According to the University's guidelines, an ad hoc appointment may be made "in case there is a sudden, unexpected and short vacancy, arising out of sudden sickness or death, on medical grounds (including maternity leave), abrupt leave or any other situation that may disrupt the normal process of teaching-learning."

### Importance of higher education:

- The economic progress in most of the developed countries can be attributed to the contribution of their higher education institutes.
- There are ample examples of institutes of higher education being centres of social changes and revolutions. The Indian independence struggle is said to have been strengthened and revitalized by student activism in the universities.
- A healthy and civilized society depends, in part, on the quality of higher education.

### State of Indian higher education system:

- In the last 30 years, higher education in India has witnessed rapid and impressive growth. India's higher education system is the third-largest in the world, next to the United States and China.
- However, Indian universities continue to lag behind world-class universities such as Harvard, Cambridge, and Oxford.
- The Indian higher education system is performing below par in terms of the questionable quality of output from the institutes, and the very less amount of Research and Developmental works being undertaken.

### Challenge of Ad-hoc Teachers:

- There are many factors that have resulted in the bad state of the education system today.
- One of the major factors is the lack of job security among a vast majority of teachers who have been rendering their services on ad hoc or contractual basis in universities, colleges and schools.
- A culture of ad hocism has unfortunately percolated through India's education system and has led to concerns among the temporary and contractual teachers.

### NRC

#### Why in News?

- The Supreme Court has ordered that children excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) for Assam but whose parents/guardians/caregivers are part of the final list, should not be sent to detention camps or separated from their loved ones at any cost.
- The Supreme Court's order is in response to an application which stated that the unreasonable manner in which children have been excluded from the NRC final list even when their parents are included is in direct contravention with constitutional as well as the legal safeguards.



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### Assam NRC

- The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian Citizens. The only time that an NRC was prepared was in 1951.
- After the conduct of the Census of 1951, the NRC was prepared by recording particulars of all the persons enumerated during that Census.
- The NRC in Assam is basically a list of Indian citizens living in the state. The citizens' register sets out to identify foreign nationals in the state.
- The process to update the register began following a Supreme Court order in 2013, with the state's nearly 33 million people having to prove that they were Indian nationals prior to 24th March, 1971.
- The updated final NRC was released on 31st August, 2019 with over 1.9 million applicants failing to make it to the list.

### General studies-1

#### A case for including Tulu in the Eighth Schedule

##### Why in News?

- The article argues for the inclusion of Tulu in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution and the benefits of such a move.

##### Key points:

- There is considerable linguistic diversity in India.
- India is one of the unique countries in the world that has the legacy of diversity of languages.
- According to the 2001 Census, India has 30 languages that are spoken by more than a million people each. There are 122 languages that are spoken by at least 10,000 people each.
- India is home to 1,599 languages, including the various dialects.
- Multilingualism is the way of life in India as people in different parts of the country speak more than one language from their birth and learn additional languages during their lifetime.
- There is a threat to the linguistic diversity of India.
- In recent years the language diversity is under threat as speakers of diverse languages are becoming rare and major languages are adopted after abandoning the mother tongues.
- Most of the languages and dialects are restricted to specific regions and many of them are on the verge of extinction.
- 50 languages have become extinct in the past five decades.
- The constitutional provisions and the language policies have tried to conserve the linguistic diversity of India.
- Article 29 of the Constitution provides that a section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same.
- Under the Constitution, provision is made for the appointment of Special Officer for linguistic



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minority with the sole responsibilities of safeguarding the interest of language spoken by the minority groups.

- The language policy of India provides a guarantee to protect the linguistic minorities.
- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India. The Constitution of India has recognised 22 official languages.

### General studies-3

#### ICAR to set up Innovation Fund

##### Why in News?

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is all set to start a Farmers Innovation Fund. ICAR will bring a system to scientifically validate, scale-up and propagate the innovations of progressive farmers.
- As part of this system, an innovation centre will be established in New Delhi where the innovations will be scientifically validated and farmers will be allowed to pursue research work.

##### **Key Points:**

- Agriculture and Science: The system intends to link farmers and farming with science and to ensure that their farm practices are science-based. It would also encourage farmers to continue their innovations.
- KrishiVigyanKendras document the innovations of farmers.
- Technology in Agriculture: ICAR emphasises that agriculture is a science and application of principles of science helps in boosting agriculture.
- Scientific approach and use of technology helped in the success of various agricultural and allied sectors' revolutions like- green revolution and white revolution.
- ICAR has created a link between 105 startups and farmers to encourage the use of technology in the farm sector.
- Organic Farming: ICAR has developed 45 different organic farming models suitable for different agro-climatic regions and has validated 51 integrated farming systems to help increase farm income.
- Fertilisers and Pesticides: ICAR is developing nano fertilizers and nano pesticides to promote organic farming and to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers
- Youth and Agriculture: A programme named Arya is also being implemented to improve rural bio-economy and attract youth to agriculture.
- Till now over 5000 youth have been brought into this programme in which they have been trained to be entrepreneurs and begin a start-up. Around 104 such startups are marketing processed food items.
- Indian Science Congress: Its theme for the year 2020 was "Science & Technology: Rural Development". Also, Farmers' Science Congress was inaugurated for the first time in the



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107 years of history of the Indian Science Congress highlighting the importance of farmer's innovations and their scientific validity.

### Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS).

#### Why in news?

- India is planning to put up a new satellite series called the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS).
- The IDRSS is planned to track and be constantly in touch with Indian satellites, mainly with those in low-earth orbits (LEO) having limited coverage of earth.

#### Key Points:

- It will play a crucial role in helping Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) with its advanced LEO missions such as space docking, space station and distant expeditions to the Moon, Mars etc.
- It will also be useful in monitoring launches.
- IDRSS satellites of the 2,000 kg class would be launched on the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) launcher to geostationary orbits around 36,000 km away. A satellite in Geosynchronous Equatorial Orbit (GEO) covers a third of the earth and therefore three of them can provide total coverage.
- Crew members of the Gaganyaan mission of 2022 will be the first ones to benefit from the IDRSS by staying with mission control fully and continuously throughout the travel.

### The Great Indian Bustard

- The Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world.
- Scientific Name: *Ardeotisnigriceps*
- Habitat: Dry grasslands and scrublands on the Indian subcontinent; its largest populations are found in the Indian state of Rajasthan.
- Protection Status
  - Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List
  - In Appendix I of CITES,
  - In Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

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