



# INNOVATIVE IAS

## Daily News Analysis

13th December 2019

### General Studies- 2

#### Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019

##### Why in News?

Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 on 12 December 2019 by voice vote.

##### Key points:

- The bill seeks to amend Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to include three tribes namely– Parivara, Talwara and Siddi community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts, in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.
- The bill was introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister of State Renuka Singh Saruta in Upper House.
- The tribal and tribal communities which are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes (STs) are specified in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. Thus the Bill amends Part VI of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 which specifies the Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka.
- Bills amends the Order by substituting- (1) 'Siddi (in Uttar Kannada district)' with 'Siddi (in Belagavi, Dharwad and Uttar Kannada districts)'; (2) 'Naikda, Nayaka' with 'Naikda, Nayaka (including Parivara and Talawara)'. Currently, the Siddi tribe of Uttar Kannada district alone is included in list.

#### FSSAI and Nasscom

##### Why in news?

- Food regulator FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) and Nasscom Foundation, a trade association of Indian IT and Business Process Outsourcing industry, have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly build a technology platform to prevent food wastage and encouraging food donation by developing an app for the purpose.
- The collaboration is a significant step in the direction of leveraging technology for solutions of social problems.

##### Key points:

- FSSAI and Nasscom (National Association of Software and Services Companies) Foundation will develop a common 24×7 helpline number and a mobile application 'Food Donation in India' to donate food to the needy.
- The helpline number will connect donors with surplus edibles to food distribution organisations.

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## Daily News Analysis

- Platform will help in facilitating registration of surplus food distribution organisations. Initially, the network of 81 such organizations across India, known as Indian Food Sharing Alliance (IFSA) will be a part of the platform.

### Assam Accord

#### Why in news?

- The debate on the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) passed by Parliament on Wednesday (December 11) has repeatedly flagged the alleged violation of the Assam Accord by the new law.

#### Key points:

- The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement signed by the Governments of India and Assam, and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the All Assam GanaSangramParishad (AAGSP) in New Delhi on August 15, 1985.
- The Home Ministry was the nodal Ministry for the implementation of the Accord. In 1986, a new Department was set up in the Government of Assam, called "Implementation of Assam Accord Department", to implement the various clauses of the Memorandum of Settlement.
- On its website, the Assam government says the Implementation of Assam Accord Department monitors "the works implementing under various clauses of the Assam Accord which is executed by different Department(s)/Organization(s) as entrusted by the Government of India as well as the Govt. of Assam", and "liaises with All Assam Students' Union and the different Department(s)/Organization(s) of the Government of India and Government of Assam involved in the process of implementation of the clauses of Assam Accord".

### General Studies-3

#### Climate Neutrality Agreement

#### Why in News?

- Poland left 2050 Climate Neutrality Agreement of European Union as the Union demanded for more funds to support nuclear power and for economic transition.

#### Key points:

- Poland, whose 80% of energy needs are relied on coal opted out of Climate Neutrality 2050 plan. The country requested to extend the plan execution deadline to 2070 availing longer period to cut emissions according to the plan. But net players like Netherlands refused to agree to the terms that led Poland to leave the plan.
- Hungary and Czech Republic stopped their resistance after nuclear energy was recognized as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



# INNOVATIVE IAS

## Daily News Analysis

### European Union 2050 Climate Neutrality Plan

- The Climate Neutrality Plan is a key commitment under 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It is a 100 billion Euro plan for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It is also called European Green Deal or Europe's man on the moon moment.
- Previously under Paris Agreement, the EU had committed to reduce its emission by 40% by 2030 as compared to 1990. There were no goals set for 2050 initially. Under the new plan, the 2030 target has been increased to 50% and a new 100% target has been set for 2050.

### Climate Neutrality

- Climate Neutrality means emissions will have no impact on climate. It also includes warming effects that do not come from carbon. The plan is important as the EU bloc that comprises of 28 countries is the third largest economic bloc after China and US in contributions to climate change.

### Artificial Technology

#### Why in News?

- UNESCO and Dell Technologies will launch a new education programme where they will train 4,000 Indian teachers in Artificial Technology. The programme will aid in Gol step of introducing

#### Key points:

- The programme will be spread across three phases. In the first phase, teachers in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka will be trained.
- The organizations will use technologies like FramerSpace, frontier technologies and ICT to train the teachers. FramerSpace is a digital platform that will help teachers implement and monitor learning plans for students.
- Teachers who are certified in Dell's Aarambh programmes are to be given preferences.
- In second phase, face-to-face familiarization training will be provided. Later in third phase, teachers will be provided 12 months training.

### Significance

- The programme will help in achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4.7. The Goal aims at providing education to build peaceful and sustainable societies.
- Under SDG 4, the United Nations aim at providing 100% free education to boys and girls all over the world. It also aims at substantially increasing the number of scholarships available to students by 2020

### Heavy metal pollution in river

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Central Water Commission (CWC) has reported that the samples from two-thirds

of the water quality stations spanning India's major rivers are contaminated by one or more heavy metals, exceeding safe limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards

### Key points:

- The samples from only one-third of water quality stations were safe where as 65% were polluted by heavy metals.
- Heavy metals are naturally occurring elements that have a high atomic weight and a density of at least 5 times greater than that of water.
- The exercise was limited to surface water and did not cover groundwater contamination.
- The presence of metals in drinking water to some extent is unavoidable and certain metals, in trace amounts, are required for good health. However, when present above safe limits, they are associated with a range of disorders.
- Long-term exposure to the heavy metals may result in physical, muscular, and neurological degenerative processes that mimic Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.
- Iron emerged as the most common contaminant with above safe limits across the country.
- Arsenic and zinc are the two toxic metals whose concentration is always found within the limits.  
Arsenic contamination is a major environmental issue that affects groundwater.
- The other major contaminants found in the samples were lead, nickel, chromium, cadmium and copper.
- The contamination of water sites depends on the season. As the varied presence of contaminants is found in different seasons. Thus, the water samples were collected in three different seasons: Non-Monsoon, and Monsoon.
  - Non-Monsoon Period: Lead, cadmium, nickel, chromium and copper contamination were more common in this period.
  - Monsoon Period: Iron, lead, chromium and copper exceeded 'tolerance limits' in this period most of the time.

### SamagraShiksha

#### Why in news?

- Ministry of Human Resource Development is implementing the Scheme of Vocationalisation of School Education.

### Key points:

- Under the scheme, a vocational subject is offered for Classes IX to XII along with the general education to provide necessary employability and vocational skills for a variety of occupations.
- The above scheme is being implemented under the umbrella of 'SamagraShiksha – an integrated scheme for school education'.



# INNOVATIVE IAS

## Daily News Analysis

- SamagraShiksha is an integrated scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.
- It subsumes the three Schemes of SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA), RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).
- The scheme treats school education holistically as a continuum from Pre-school to Class 12.
- The main emphasis of the Scheme is on improving the quality of school education by focussing on the two T's – Teacher and Technology.

### Prelims Facts:

#### Taj Trapezium Zone

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

- Recently, the Supreme Court has permitted Northern Railways to cut over 400 trees in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) for construction of an additional rail track between Delhi and Agra on the condition of mandatory compensatory afforestation.

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

- Supreme Court Ruling: In response to a Public Interest Litigation seeking to protect the TajMahal from environmental pollution, the Supreme Court of India delivered a ruling in December, 1996 that banned the use of coal/ coke in industries located in the TTZ. It ordered for switching over from coal/ coke to natural gas, and relocating them outside the TTZ or shutting down.
- The Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has constituted the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) authority in 1998.
- TTZ is a defined area of 10,400 sq km around the TajMahal to protect the monument from pollution.
- TTZ is so named since it is located around the TajMahal and is shaped like a trapezium.
- It comprises monuments including three World Heritage Sites the TajMahal, Agra Fort and FatehpurSikri.

#### Shore Temple in Mamallapuram

- The shoreline on the northern side of the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu is facing severe sea erosion.
- The Public Works Department is awaiting funds to construct groynes for coastal protection at a cost of ₹95.95 crore.
- According to PWD, every year, nearly 4-5 m of the shoreline near the temple is declining.
- A groyne is a shore protection structure built perpendicular to the shoreline of the coast



# INNOVATIVE IAS

## Daily News Analysis

(or river), over the beach to reduce longshore drift and trap sediments. A groyne functions as a physical barrier by intercepting sand moving along the shore.

- Rock is often used as construction material, but wooden groynes, steel groynes, rubble-mound and sand-filled bag groynes, or groynes made of concrete elements can also be found. Rock groynes are generally preferred as they are more durable and absorb more wave energy due to their permeable nature.

### Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi)

- BhartiAirtel, which recently removed its FUP (Fair Usage Policy) on calls to other networks, has introduced Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi), a first for India
- Wi-Fi Calling makes use of high speed Internet connection, available via broadband, to make and receive high definition (HD) voice calls. Users don't have to pay extra for these calls as it is using a Wi-Fi network.
- Wi-Fi Calling is aimed especially for areas where cellular networks are not strong.
- This is not much different from a voice call using WhatsApp or any other over-the-top messaging platform, but here the call is from one number to another, and not using an app.
- Wi-Fi Calling can be configured on compatible smartphones by upgrading operating systems to the version that supports Wi-Fi Calling, and enabling this in Settings.
- Airtel says it will soon be compatible with all broadband services and Wi-Fi hotspots, and rolled out in other location,

### Papikonda National Park (PNP).

- The Forest Department and experts from Kerala and northeastern States will begin the maiden survey of butterfly species in the Papikonda National Park (PNP).
- The PNP spreads over 1012.86 square kilometres in East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- It has historically experienced varying levels of protection, beginning as a reserved forest in 1882, a wildlife sanctuary in 1978, and as a national park from 2008.
- The park lies on the left and right banks of the river Godavari and cuts through the Papikonda hill range of Eastern Ghats. The River Godavari enriches the Papikonda Park with its natural beauty.
- The majority of the area of the park is covered with moist deciduous forest and include animal species such as tigers, mouse deer, gaur etc

### NavIC to Join Allied System of USA

- Recently, the US Congress has consented to designate India's Navigation in Indian Constellation (NavIC) as its "allied" navigational satellite system along with the Galileo of the European Union and QZSS of Japan.



# INNOVATIVE IAS

## Daily News Analysis

- At the same time, it has designated Russia' GLONASS and Chinese Beidou as a “non-allied system”.
- The tag of the “allied” navigational satellite system allows US satellite navigation system to co-operate or to exchange data with these satellite navigation systems.
- This tag is designated as part of the conference report of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2020.
- The designation of India's NavIC as an “allied system” is part of the American effort to develop a prototype program for multi-global navigation satellite system.

