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Dialy News Pedia*Horizon 2020*

(GS Prelims and Mains 2 – International Relations)



Recent News: The European Union and India will collaborate in research and innovation for developing a next generation influenza vaccine to protect people worldwide. The EU is funding is under its programme for research and innovation 'Horizon 2020'.

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of research funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Participants from European Union member states and countries associated to Horizon 2020 are automatically funded.

Participation from outside the European Union is explicitly encouraged.

Associated countries have signed an association agreement for the purposes of this framework programme. To date, 14 countries are associated to Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 itself is seen as a policy instrument to implement other high-level policy initiatives of the European Union, such as Europe 2020 and Innovation Union. The programme runs from 2014–20 and provides an estimated €80 billion of funding.

Note: The EU and the Indian government's Department of Biotechnology have committed 15 million Euros each to fund this joint project. The aim is to advance the efficacy, safety, duration of immunity, and reactivity against an increased breadth of influenza strains. The joint effort also aims to develop cost-effective and affordable influenza vaccine rapidly without compromising quality. There will be multi-disciplinary approach involving stakeholders who can represent any part of the chain from lab to market.

Kudumbashree: a fine model of community service

(GS Prelims and Mains 1 – Self Help Groups)

(Kudumbashree means prosperity of the family in Malayalam)

It is an innovative model for poverty eradication through women empowerment. It was conceived as a joint programme of the Government of Kerala and NABARD implemented through Community Development Societies (CDSs) of Poor Women, serving as the community wing of Local Governments.

Three critical components of the program **are micro credit, entrepreneurship and empowerment.**

The mission aims at the empowerment of women, through forming self-help groups and encouraging their entrepreneurial or other wide range of activities. Kudumbashree differs from conventional programmes in that it perceives poverty not just as the deprivation of money, but also as the deprivation of basic rights. The poor need to find a collective voice to help claim these rights.

The grassroots of Kudumbashree are Neighborhood Groups (NHG in short) that send representatives to the ward level Area Development Societies (ADS). The ADS sends its representatives to the Community Development Society (CDS), which completes the unique three-tier structure of Kudumbashree.

It is this network that brings women to the Grama Sabhas and helps them bring the needs of the poor to the attention of the local governments. The Community Development Societies are also very active in Government programmes and play significant roles in development activities ranging from socio-economic surveys and enterprise development to community management and social audit.

NTCA to take over Corbett Tiger Reserve

(GS Prelims and Mains 3 – Environment and Biodiversity)

Recent News: Uttarakhand High Court has asked if the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) could take over the management of the Corbett Tiger Reserve “as an interim measure”. The court also asked the NTCA if the tigers could be relocated “to save them from poaching”.

Corbett tiger reserve:

Jim Corbett National Park can be befittingly called the paradise of Tigers for the fact that it holds a large population of tigers in its breathtaking landscapes that consists of different varieties of flora and fauna. Named after the **legendary tiger hunter turned naturalist Jim Corbett (1875-1955)**, the proud destination 'Jim Corbett National Park' was the **first national park of India**, which was established in 1936 in the hill state of Uttarakhand in Northern India. This unique tiger territory is best known as the father who gave birth of the Project Tiger in India to protect the most endangered species and the Royal of India called Tigers.

Corbett National Park covers an area of 521 sq. km and together with the neighboring Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary and Reserve Forest areas, forms the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Corbett is one of the richest bird regions of the Country and has been declared as an 'Important Bird Area' (IBA) by Birdlife International.

National Tiger Conservation Authority

It is a **statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees.

Punjab Assembly passes amendment bill to set up State Security Commission

(GS Prelims and Mains 2 – Governance)

The Punjab state assembly on August 28, 2018 passed the Police (Amendment) Bill 2018 that would pave way for setting up of a State Security Commission for selection of the director general of police (DGP). The bill seeks to amend the Punjab Police Act 2007, which was enacted on February 5, 2008.

The act did not provide for selection of the DGP from the panel as prepared by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Under the bill's provisions, the state government shall select the DGP from amongst the Indian Police Service (IPS) from a panel of at least three eligible officers borne on the cadre of Punjab or any state cadre.

EDITORIAL

To read

India drone policy: With the Directorate General of Central Aviation announcing India's policy on the use of drones, here a closer look at the finer details.



After a couple of years of deliberation and ending a long period of ambiguity and confusion, the Director General of Civil Aviation has finally announced its policy for remotely piloted aircraft or drones. Set to come into effect from December 1, 2018, the new policy defines what will be classified as remotely piloted aircraft, how they can be flown and the restrictions they will have to operate under. Here is a look at the policy in detail.

What are drones?

The DGCA has defined remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) as an unmanned aircraft piloted from a remote pilot station. "The remotely piloted aircraft, its associated remote pilot station(s), command and control links and any other components forms a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS)," the policy states. Also, as per the civil aviation requirements – issued under the provisions of Rule 15A and Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 – these RPAs will need a Unique Identification Number (UIN), Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP) and need to adhere to other operational requirements.

The DGCA has segregated drones into five different categories

- i) Nano : Less than or equal to 250 grams.
- ii) Micro : From 250 grams to 2kg.
- iii) Small : From 2kg to 25kg.
- iv) Medium : From 25kg to 150kg.
- v) Large : Greater than 150kg.

All drones, other than in the nano category, shall apply to DGCA for import clearance and based on that Directorate General of Foreign Trade shall issue license for import of RPAS.

What is Unmanned Aircraft Operator Permit (UAOP)?

Operators of civil drones will need to get a permit from the DGCA. There are exceptions for:

- i) Nano RPA operating below 50 feet (15 m) in uncontrolled airspace / enclosed premises.
- ii) Micro RPA operating below 200 feet (60 m) in uncontrolled airspace / enclosed premises – but will need to inform local police 24 hours prior.
- iii) RPA owned and operated by NITRO, ARC and Central Intelligence Agencies but after intimating local police.

The DGCA has to issue the UAOP within seven working days provided all the documents are complete. This UAOP shall be valid for five years and not transferrable. The policy also stipulates that RPAs shall be flown only by someone over 18 years of age, having passed 10th exam in English, and undergone ground/ practical training as approved by DGCA.

How can drones be operated in India?

The basic operating procedure will restrict drone flights to the daytime only and that too within "Visual Line of Sight (VLOS)". This applies to all categories. Also, along with other SOPs, the DGCA has clarified that no remote pilot can operate more than one RPA at any time. Plus, manned aircraft will also get priority. There can't be any human or animal payloads, or anything hazardous. It cannot in any manner cause danger to people or property. An insurance will be mandatory to cover third-party damage.

What are the restrictions in place for drones in India?

RPAs cannot be flown within 5km of the perimeters of the airports in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad and within 3km from the perimeter of any other airport.

It cannot fly within “permanent or temporary Prohibited, Restricted and Danger Areas” and within 25km from international border which includes the Line of Control (LoC), Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL).

It cannot fly beyond 500 m into sea from the coast line and within 3 km from perimeter of military installations.

It also cannot fly within a 5 km radius of the Vijay Chowk in Delhi, within 2 km from perimeter of strategic locations/ vital installations notified by Ministry of Home Affairs and within 3 km from radius of State Secretariat Complexes.

It also cannot be operated from a mobile platform such as a moving vehicle, ship or aircraft.

Eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are off-limits without prior permission.

Violations will be acted on under relevant sections of the IPC and the Aircraft Act 1934.

PRELIMS QUESTIONS.

1. Choose the correct statement regarding Horizon 2020
 - a. It is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme.
 - b. Participation from outside the European Union is explicitly discouraged.
 - c. Both.
 - d. None.
2. Kudumbashree, a fine model of community service is launched which state
 - a. Tamil Nadu.
 - b. Kerala.
 - c. Andhra Pradesh.
 - d. Telangana.

MAINS QUESTIONS

Q: Discuss the recent Indian Drone Policy.