

➤ NGT directed **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to ensure prompt preparation of **CZMP** or **ICRZP** by states and UTs in line with **Coastal Regulation Zone notification 2019**.

- ⊕ **Only Odisha, Karnataka, and Maharashtra** have developed the CZMP/ICRZP as per the notification.
- ⊕ Additionally, **Great Nicobar and Little Andaman Islands** are the only ones that have approved the ICRZP.

➤ **About CZMP**

⊕ CZMP/ICRZP is strategic frameworks designed to manage and regulate human activities in coastal areas.

⊕ **Key components of CZMPs**

- ◆ **Zoning:** CZMPs divide coastal areas into different zones, such as **No Development Zones (NDZ), and Coastal Regulation Zones** (Refer Table).
- ◆ **Public Participation:** Discussions with public to consider the opinions and worries of local communities etc.

CRZ-IA	Ecologically Sensitive Areas like Mangroves, Salt Marshes etc.
CRZ-1B	Intertidal zone i.e. area between Low Tide Line and High Tide Line.
CRZ-II	Developed Land Areas (Municipal Limits / Urban Areas).
CRZ-III	Land areas that are relatively undisturbed (viz. rural areas, etc.) and those which do not fall under CRZ-II.
CRZ-IVA	Area between Low Tide Line up to 12 nautical miles on the seaward side.
CRZ-IVB	Applicable on Tidal influenced water bodies .

➤ **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notifications**

- ⊕ **MoEF&CC** under **Environment Protection Act, 1986**, issued **CRZ notification (1991)** for regulation of activities in coastal area.
- ⊕ Subsequently **CRZ Notification, 2011** (reviewed by **Shailesh Nayak Committee**) declared **certain coastal stretches as CRZ** and entrusted **preparation of CZMPs** to coastal states and UTs.
- ⊕ **CRZ Notification, 2019** (which superseded 2011 notification) advocated for revision or updation of CZMPs.
- ⊕ **Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Notification, 2019** superseded **Island Protection Zone (IPZ) Notification 2011**.

14th Ministerial meeting of India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) held in New Delhi

➤ Established in 2005, TPF is a **platform for continuous engagement between two countries in area of trade** and to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations.

➤ **Key Outcomes**

- ⊕ Establish **Joint Facilitative Mechanism (JFM)** to mitigate non-tariff barriers.
 - ◆ JFM will focus on mutually recognising outcomes from International Laboratories and establishing bilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements whenever feasible.
 - ◆ This would **eliminate duplicative testing requirements and reduce compliance costs for trade** in high-quality goods.
- ⊕ **Acknowledged discussions on Social Security totalization agreement** which will give social security to **Indian professionals working in US**.
- ⊕ Reiterated India's interest in restoration of its beneficiary status under **U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program**.
 - ◆ GSP is **largest and oldest US trade preference program** to **promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry** for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.

➤ **Indo-US Trade relations**

- ⊕ U.S is **India's biggest trading partner** in 2022-23 at **\$128.55 billion**.
- ⊕ During 2022-23, US was the third largest source of FDI into India.

➤ **Challenges in India-US Trade Ties**

- ⊕ In 2019, US **removed India from GSP**.
- ⊕ **Tightening of H-1B visa norms**.
- ⊕ US perceives **India's Atmanirbhar bharat** initiative as **protectionist move**.

Initiatives to boost trade potential

- India-US commercial dialogue
- US-India business council
- India-US Economic and Financial Partnership

Cinereous vulture, Griffon vulture and Himalayan vulture

- ▶ A 'Vulture Restaurant' has been established in **Koderma** district, Jharkhand to **address adverse impact of livestock drugs, particularly diclofenac, on vultures.**
 - ⊕ Vulture restaurant is an **undisturbed area** where **non-toxic, poison-free meat and carcasses are provided** for vultures and other scavengers.
 - ◆ There are other such restaurants in **Raigad, Gadchiroli** and **Nashik** district in **Maharashtra** and **Kangra** district in **Himachal Pradesh.**
 - ⊕ Diclofenac is Non-steroidal Anti Inflammatory drugs, used in veterinary practice that has been proven toxic to vultures and other birds of prey.
- ▶ **Vultures** are large **carrion-eating birds** found mainly in **tropics and subtropics. 9 species of vultures** are found in India. Out of them, **3 species are migratory** (Cinereous vulture, Griffon vulture and Himalayan vulture).
They **maintain clean environment** by acting as nature's garbage collectors and **control spread of wildlife diseases** from rotting corpse.
- ▶ **Conservation status:** Protected under **Schedule (1) of Wildlife Protection Act 1972.**
- ▶ **Threats:** **Loss of natural habitats** due to human activities, **Food scarcity**, Population decline due to **exposure to drug diclofenac, Electrocution** by powerlines etc.

Vulture Conservation Initiatives

Ban on Veterinary use of **Diclofenac (2006), Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac (2023).**
Action Plan for Vulture Conservation in India 2020-25. Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore, Haryana

- ▶ **CDSCO asked drug-makers to produce post- marketing safety and efficacy data on three FDCs and to change dosage and information label in other two FDCs.**

These five FDCs are part of 344 drug combinations that government had first banned in 2016.

- ▶ FDC drugs are those which contain a **combination of two or more Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients** in a fixed ratio.

It may be administered as **single entity products given concurrently** or as a **finished pharmaceutical product.**

- ▶ **Regulation of FDCs in India**

Rule 122E of Drugs & Cosmetics Rule, 1945 considers FDCs of two or more drugs as new drugs even if they have been approved individually for certain claims.

In 2022, CDSCO released '**Draft Policy for Approval of Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs)**'.

- ▶ **Issues with FDCs**

Existence of unlimited brands of FDCs with different permutations and combinations leads to confusion rather than guiding the prescribing doctor.

- ⊕ **Increased chances of adverse drug effects and drug interactions** compared with drugs given individually.
- ⊕ **Difficulty in identifying** active ingredient responsible for drug reaction in patients. Concerns with
- ⊕ **development of drug resistance** due to the combination used.

CDSCO

- ▶ It is responsible for **approval of Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, etc., under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.**

is hearing the case relating to the Minority Status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)

Background

- ⊕ In 2019, Supreme Court referred the issue of determining the correctness of minority status granted to AMU to a seven-judge bench.
 - ◆ Earlier in 1967, Constitution bench in **S Azeez Basha versus Union of India** case held that AMU was a "central university," not a minority institution. Following the 1967 verdict, **AMU (Amendment) Act, 1981**, granted the university minority status.
 - ◆ **Allahabad High Court had in 2006** struck down the provision of the Act which was challenged by central government.

About Minority Educational Institutions (MEIs)

- ⊕ **Article 30(1) of Constitution** deals with right of linguistic and religious minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
- ⊕ **National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act (NCMEIA), 2005** was enacted to safeguard educational rights of the minorities enshrined in Article 30(1).
 - ◆ The Commission, a quasi-judicial body and possess powers of a Civil Court, decide questions relating to the status of any institution as a MEI.
- ⊕ Central Government has notified **six religious minority communities viz. Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi and Jain.**

Special Privileges enjoyed by MEIs

Under Article 30(1A) in case of acquisition of any property of an educational institution established and administered by a minority, due compensation to be provided.

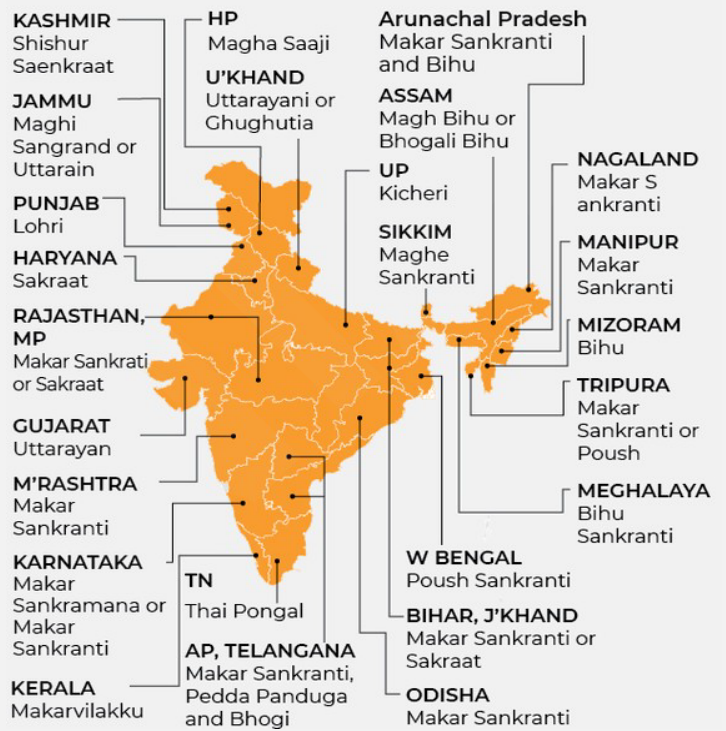
MEIs are not required to implement the reservation policy under Section 3 of Central Educational Institute (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 (as amended in 2012).

Right to Education Act is not applicable to MEIs, aided and unaided.

- **Makar Sankranti** is a major harvest festival celebrated across India and different states celebrate festivals under different names, traditions and festivities.
 - ⊕ Festival is dedicated to Sun God, Lord Surya and marks the sun's transit into Makara (Capricorn).
 - ⊕ **Makar Sankranti heralds end of winter season** and start of longer days as sun move northwards.
 - ⊕ **Astronomically, a change in seasons** is caused by the tilt of the earth and the earth's movement around the sun.

Makar Sankranti: Many names

Different names of winter harvest festival across India



Operation AMRITH (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention For Total Health)

Kerala Drug Control Department has launched operation AMRITH to prevent overuse of antibiotics in state.

It aims to detect over-the-counter sale of antibiotics without doctor's prescription.

Other efforts taken by Kerala on AMR

- ⊕ In 2018, became first state in India that came up with **Kerala Anti-Microbial Resistance Strategic Action Plan (KARSAP)** which is aligned with India's National Action Plan on AMR.
- ⊕ **Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (KARS-NET).**
- ⊕ **AMR laboratory** for environmental surveillance of AMR.
- ⊕ **Programme on Removal of Unused Drugs (PROUD)** for proper disposal of unused antibiotics.

Delhi High Court ruled that **foreigners cannot claim right to reside in India** under Article 19(1)(e) of Constitution of India.

- **Article 19(1)(e)** of constitution grants the right to reside and settle in any part of territory of India as a fundamental right under Right to Freedom.
 - ⊕ However, Reasonable restrictions on this right can be imposed by law-
 - ◆ in the interest of general public, or
 - ◆ for the protection of interest of any Scheduled Tribe.



National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

- ▶ NAAC has put on hold grading process of around 30 institutes in the country.
 - ⊕ NAAC (set up in 1994) is an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
 - ⊕ It conducts assessment and accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) such as colleges, universities.
- ▶ **Eligibility criteria:** HEIs, with a record of at least two batches of students graduated, or been in existence for six years, whichever is earlier, are eligible to apply for the process of Assessment and Accreditation of NAAC.

Steel Slag Road Technology (SSRT)

- ▶ India's first National Highway Steel Slag Road section on NH-66, connecting Mumbai to Goa was inaugurated.
- ▶ SSRT has been developed by Central Road Research Institute in collaboration with Ministry of Steel.
- ▶ Steel slag, by-product of steel making, is produced during the separation of molten steel from impurities in steel-making furnaces.
 - It can be used in several activities, such as construction and paving, agricultural sector due to its ability to correct soil acidity, manufacture of portland slag cement etc.
 - India's first six-lane steel slag-based road has been constructed in Surat, Gujarat.
 - Benefits:** Reduces waste generated by steel industry; Cost-effective; Improved strength, durability and environmental sustainability etc.

Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR)

- ▶ PTR in Maharashtra becomes India's first international Dark Sky Park for protecting night sky, preventing light pollution and promote astronomy.
- ▶ **About Pench Tiger Reserve**
 - Named after Pench River which flows from north to south through Reserve.
 - Located in Satpura hills in Madhya Pradesh, and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.
 - Major Protected Areas of Satpura-Maikal ranges of Central Highlands.
 - Declared a National Park in 1975.
 - Forest:** Tropical dry deciduous with dominance of teak trees.
 - Fauna:** Tiger, Leopard, Jackal, Wolf, Deer, Hyena etc.

Cabo Verde (Capital: Praia)

- ▶ Cabo Verde has been certified as malaria-free by WHO, becoming third African country to achieve this status after Mauritius and Algeria.
- ▶ **Political Features:**
 - The archipelago lies around 500km off the west coast of Africa in the Atlantic Ocean.
 - Cape Verde has no direct neighbours.
 - The former Portuguese colony comprises 10 islands and five islets.
- ▶ **Geographical Features:**
 - ⊕ The archipelago is volcanic in origin.
 - ⊕ **Highest point :** Pico do Fogo Climate :
 - ⊕ Tropical



Genocide Convention

- ▶ South Africa accused Israel of violating Genocide Convention at the United Nations' International Court of Justice (ICJ).
- ▶ **About Genocide Convention**
 - ⊕ Officially known as Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
 - ⊕ It was the first human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.
 - ⊕ Purpose of the convention is to prevent and punish acts of genocide.
 - It defines genocide as acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.

Cauvery Basin

NGT has served notices to southern states over reduction of green cover in Cauvery basin over the past five decades.

Cauvery Basin

- Geography:** It extends over states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry.
- Protected Areas:** Nagarhole National park, Wayanad wildlife sanctuary, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve etc.
- Cauvery River:** Rises in Brahmagiri range of Western Ghats in Karnataka.
 - ◆ River makes second biggest waterfall in India, known as Shivasamudram Falls.
 - ◆ **Tributaries:** Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati and Kabini etc.

Vadnagar, an Ancient Living City (Gujarat)

A joint study by Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur) discovered evidence of human settlement in Vadnagar dating back to 800 BCE.

This aligns with late-Vedic/pre-Buddhist Mahajanapadas or oligarchic republics era, shedding light on the town's ancient origins.

About Vadnagar

- Included in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It was a multicultural and multi religious (Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Islamic) settlement.
- It is in proximity to Modhera, which is famous for Sun Temple.
- Historical sites**
 - ◆ Hatkeshwar Temple
 - ◆ Sharmishtha Lake