

## PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE

### • Appointment

- Arvind Saxena has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission.
- **Sunil Arora** has been appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner.
- **Sanjay Kumar Mishra** has been appointed as Director of Enforcement Directorate.
- **SS Deswal** has been appointed as Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- **AM Naik** has been appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation.
- **Jalaj Srivastava** has been appointed as Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- **Ashok Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as Chairperson of Competition Commission of India.
- Justices Hemant Gupta, R. Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi were sworn in as judges of SC.
- **Nageshwara Rao Guntur** has been appointed as Chairperson of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

#### **About Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**

- It was established in *November 1983* to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety on a countrywide basis.
- President of India constituted it by exercising powers conferred by **Section 27 of Atomic Energy Act, 1962** to carry out certain regulatory and safety functions under the Act.
- The regulatory authority of AERB is derived from rules and notifications promulgated under **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and **Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- **Mission:** Its mission is to ensure that use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to health and environment.
- **Composition:** It consists of full-time Chairman, an ex officio Member, three part-time Members and Secretary.
- It is headquartered in **Mumbai**.

- **Buddha's Statue at Nalanda:** Bihar CM Nitish Kumar unveiled a 70-foot tall statue of Lord Buddha, the second tallest statue of Buddha in the country at Rajgir in Nalanda. The statue, seated in the middle of the lake Ghora Katora on a 16-metre radius pedestal, has been built at a cost of around Rs 13 crore and is made of 45,000 cubic feet of pink sandstone brought from Chunar in Uttar Pradesh. A world-class park, work for which is going on, will be developed around the lake in order to boost eco-tourism in the area.
- **UNPA Issues Diwali Stamps**
  - The UN's Postal Administration has launched special stamps with pictures of diyas or clay oil lamps to commemorate Diwali, the Indian festival of lights.
  - The special event sheet issued containing 10 stamps are in the denomination of USD 1.15.
  - The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) is the postal agency of the United Nations. It issues postage stamps and postal stationery, denominated in United States dollars for the United Nations offices in New York, in Swiss francs for the offices in Geneva and in Euros (formerly schillings) for the offices in Vienna.

- The Union cabinet has approved setting up of **Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh**. It will be set up in *Relli village of Vizianagaram District* as provided under the Thirteenth Schedule to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- **PAISA Portal**: It has been launched under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana i.e. National Urban Livelihoods Mission.
- **E-Drishti software**: It is launched to help Railways Minister keep track of punctuality of trains.
- Andhra Pradesh has launched **Bhuseva and Bhudaar** web portal through which people can view land records online.
- **2nd Mega Food Park**: It has been inaugurated in Maharashtra at Aurangabad.
- *ISPRL signs MoU with ADNOC to explore storage of crude oil at Padur underground facility in Karnataka.*
- **ADB**: It to provide US \$13 million loan to EESL to promote efficient energy usage in India.
- **CCEA**: It has approved Strategic Sale of Government Equity in Dredging Corporation Of India.
- **Hydel Project**: India and Japan signs loan Agreement for Turga Hydel Project.
- **Aung San Suu Kyi stripped of Amnesty's Highest Honour**: Amnesty International has withdrawn a prestigious human rights award from Aung San Suu Kyi, following what it described as a “shameful betrayal” of the values she once stood for. This step was taken due to her “apparent indifference” to atrocities committed against the Rohingya and her increasing intolerance of freedom of speech.
- A **private bus service** between Lahore in Pakistan and Kashgar in China was launched. It will cover the one-way journey in two days (30 hours). The bus will cross over to China through the *Khunjerab Pass* at the Pakistan-China border. India has lodged a strong protest with China and Pakistan on the proposed bus service as it will operate from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir to China under so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- Hookah bars have been permanently banned in Punjab as President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent to a Bill from the state to check use of tobacco. Punjab is the third state in the country after Gujarat & Maharashtra where hookah bars or lounges were banned through law.
- The Republic of Seychelles has launched the world's **first sovereign blue bond**—*a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects*. Proceeds from the bond will include support for the expansion of marine protected areas, improved governance of priority fisheries, and the development of the Seychelles' blue economy. Seychelles is an archipelagic nation consisting of 115 granite and coral islands.
- **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Sashastra Seema Bal(SSB)** have joined hands to provide security to Dudhwa forests and its rich wildlife. It is protected area in Uttar Pradesh that stretches mainly across the Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich districts. It comprises Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The Defence Ministry has allowed developmental work of small nature by the central or state government's statutory bodies for faster development in border areas. The security considerations for construction activities in border areas issued earlier by the Ministry shall not be applicable for the above-mentioned development works like construction, repair and maintenance of village ponds, construction and maintenance of government buildings like schools and hospitals. in border areas. Thus, new guidelines supersede the **Security Restrictions Guidelines enunciated by it in 1990**.
- **Military Exercise**
  - The joint military exercise between Indian and Russia “**EXERCISE INDRA 2018**” was conducted at Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh). The exercise was conducted on combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN). The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct to enhance

interoperability of the two Armies in the peace keeping/ enforcement environment under the aegis of the UN.

- *Indian Navy-Indonesian Navy* bilateral exercise '**Samudra Shakti**' was inaugurated at port of Surabaya, Indonesia. This was the inaugural edition and conducted from 12 to 18 Nov 2018. Since the strategic partnership between the two nations was elevated to 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' during the visit of Prime Minister of India in May 2018, Defence co-operation has been a significant pillar in this partnership.
- The 25th edition of **SIMBEX**, "**Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise**" as conducted from November 10- 21, 2018 in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The 2018 edition marks the silver jubilee of SIMBEX.