

PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE

1. Women Wizards Rule Tech Programme

- In an effort to increase the number of women in senior levels in the Information Technology (IT) industry, Nasscom has unveiled its 'Women Wizards Rule Tech' programme for women techies.
- This programme is designed to support women who are moving up the career ladder, while also paving the way for potential leaders of the future.
- It will aid women techies in core technologies like IT-Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), Business Process Management (BPM), product and research and development (R&D) sectors by equipping them with the skills required for an edge in their career.

About NASSCOM

- NASSCOM, a not-for-profit industry association, is the apex body for the IT BPM industry in India.
- It facilitates business and trade in software and services and encourages the advancement of research in software technology.
- It was established in 1988 and is headquartered at New Delhi. It has regional offices in Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram.

2. International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- The UN General Assembly, on 7 December 1987, decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.
- It is observed as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.
- The theme for 2018 was - "**Listen First - Listening to children and youth is the first step to help them grow healthy and safe.**"

The UN General Assembly held a Special Session (UNGASS) on drugs in April 2016. This Special Session marked an important milestone in achieving the goals set in the policy document of 2009 "**Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem**", which defined action to be taken by Member States as well as goals to be achieved by 2019.

3. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- Elder abuse is a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world, and an issue which deserves the attention of the international community.
- The United Nations General Assembly designated **June 15** as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted to some of our older generations.

4. Gaming Addiction Classified as Disorder by WHO

- The World Health Organization announced "gaming disorder" as a new mental health condition included in the 11th edition of its International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

- The document described gaming disorder as a pattern of persistent or recurrent gaming behaviour so severe that it takes "precedence over other life interests.
- Symptoms include: impaired control over gaming (frequency, intensity, duration), increased priority given to gaming, continuation or escalation of gaming despite negative consequences.
- The last version of the ICD was completed in 1992, with the new guide due to be published in 2018. The guide contains codes for diseases, signs and symptoms and is used by doctors and researchers to track and diagnose disease.

5. 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow Scheme

- Haryana government has decided to give star rankings to its panchayats on the basis of seven social parameters under the state's 7-Star Gram Panchayat Rainbow scheme.
- Under this scheme, as many as 1,120 villages of the state have achieved rankings since its launch in January 2018. Ambala has topped star ranking followed by Gurugram and Karnal.
- The panchayats will be judged on sex ratio, education, hygiene, environment preservation, governance and social participation.
- The villages would be rewarded Rs one lakh for achieving each parameter. The villages having equal or more girl population will be given Rs 50,000 as bonus with their reward money. Similarly, the villages which adopt Swachhta Mission will be given additional Rs 50,000 as reward.

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7. Ambubachi Mela

- The Ambubachi Mela is celebrated in the capital city of Guwahati, in the northeastern state of Assam in India. The Ambubachi Mela is the most important festival of the Kamakhya Temple of Guwahati.
- The Ambubachi is a ritual of ascetics observed with "Tantrik means". It is believed that the presiding goddess of the temple, Devi Kamakhya, the Mother Shakti, goes through her annual cycle of menstruation during this time stretch.
- This year it was celebrated from 22 to 25 June.

8. Year of Disabled Soldiers In Line of Duty

- To honour soldiers who have been disabled in line of duty, while serving the Nation and to celebrate the undying spirit of 'Soldiering', Indian Army is observing the year 2018 as the 'Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty'.
- The primary focus is towards alleviating the sufferings of these soldiers, who have done their duty with utmost dedication to the Nation and have been disabled for the life.

- The endeavour this year is to provide a onetime financial assistance to disabled soldiers who have been boarded out from service on medical grounds and are rendered non-employable due to their medical or physical conditions.
 - The Government is also considering proposal of major grant to establish a separate fund which can be further enhanced by contributions from individuals, establishments and corporate sector thus facilitating meaningful initiatives for disabled soldiers.
- 9. G Rohini commission:** Cabinet has extended tenure of Commission constituted to examine issue of OBC sub-categorization.
 - 10. Sharad kumar:** Former NIA chief Sharad Kumar has been appointed as new vigilance commissioner in CVC.
 - 11. Arvind saxena:** Arvind Saxena has been appointed as acting Chairman of UPSC after retirement of current chairman Vinay Mittal.
 - 12.** The Centre will set up the country's biggest data centre in Bhopal with a capacity to host five lakh virtual servers. This will be the **fifth National Data Centre** after the ones at Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. These National Data Centres host government websites, services and applications. The data centre will be set up by the *National Informatics Centre (NIC)* under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
 - 13. June 20:** World Refugee Day.
 - 14. National Statistics Day:** June 29
 - 15. International Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day:** June 27
 - 16. World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference:** Haryana Government is going to host 2018 World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference at Gurugram.
 - 17. Strategic petroleum reserve:** The Union Cabinet has approved establishment of additional 6.5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facilities at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka.
 - 18. Jaitapur Nuclear plant:** French state-run power utility EDF and American conglomerate General Electric (GE) have signed strategic cooperation agreement with State-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) to build for construction of 6 EPR (European Pressurized Reactors) type nuclear reactors of capacity 1,650 megawatt each at Jaitapur nuclear plant in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra.
 - 19. World Food Prize 2018:** It has been awarded to Lawrence Haddad and Dr. David Nabarro.
 - 20. E Sreedharan committee:** PM approves setting up of E Sreedharan committee to lay down standards for metro rail systems.
 - 21. Government declares national targets for off-shore wind power:** 5 GW by 2022 and 30 GW by 2030.
 - 22. Suresh Mathur committee:** It has been established to review norms related to Insurance Marketing Firms.
 - 23. TCS:** India's IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) became first listed company in India to close day's trade with market capitalization of over 7 Lakh crore.
 - 24. Rail MADAD App:** Government has launched Rail MADAD (Mobile Application for Desired Assistance During travel) app to expedite and streamline passenger grievance redressal.
 - 25. Hamsafar Train:** New Humsafar Express Flagged Off between Jodhpur and Bandra.

26. Sudha Balakrishnan, a former vice president at National Securities Depository Ltd., assumed charge as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Ms. Balakrishnan, who has been appointed in the rank of an Executive Director, is tasked to oversee several portfolios including government and bank accounts, corporate strategy and budget and will report to Deputy Governors.
27. **SAMADHAN**: Under Samadhan (***The Scheme of Asset Management and Debt Change Structure***), the banker's consortium shortlisted 11 power plants with an overall capacity of over 13000 MW which are either complete or nearing completions. SBI and some banks have come together. They have drew up this scheme. Under this scheme they will try to revive some assets to run. Till now they have selected 11 plants. The debt order will be reduced to a manageable level and converted into equities, which are held by banks. That equity would be bid out to any players who want to buy those assets.
28. India, UAE, and Saudi Arabia would create tri-lateral cooperation with Saudi Arabia to secure Delhi's energy interests that could help to check rising oil prices. This is the first such trilateral venture for India involving two oil-rich Gulf countries. UAE was the ***first country to supply oil to India's strategic oil reserve facility*** in Mangalore.
29. **29th Anniversary of Tiananmen Square**
- June 4, 2018 marked the 29th anniversary of China's violent suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.
 - Tiananmen Square is the public square in front of Tiananmen Gate, or the "Gate of Heavenly Peace".
 - First built in the 17th century by the invading Manchu-led Qing Dynasty and greatly expanded under the Communist government, the square at the heart of the Chinese capital has been the site of several protests (1919, 1976, 1989) in Chinese history.
 - Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping opened up China's economy in December 1978 and the 1980s was a decade of rapid change in China. The changing economy brought to some a sense of optimism after decades of turmoil as result of the Mao-led policies of the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution.
 - By 1989, China had reached a critical turning point and attempts were made at political liberalization and reform within the Communist Party. People were not happy with the rule of Deng Xiaoping, the successor of Mao Zedong, who had launched several reforms, apparently biased against urban dwellers, while favouring rural.
 - As a result, in April 1989 prodemocracy protests started and were suppressed on June 4 after the military crackdown.
 - This event is also known as **June Fourth Incident** in modern Chinese history.
30. **U.K. Women Celebrate 100 Years of Voting Rights**
- Thousands of women gathered in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to mark 100 years since the first women won the right to vote in Britain.
 - In 1918, British Parliament enacted the Representation of the People Act, which granted property-owning British women over 30 the right to vote. It would be another decade before women in Britain would have the same voting rights as men.
31. **Friendship Medal**
- Chinese President Xi Jinping awarded his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin the first-ever Friendship Medal of the People's Republic of China.
 - Friendship Medals, the highest state honor to foreigners, are presented to foreign friends who have made outstanding contributions to China's modernization drive, promoting exchange and cooperation between China and the world, and safeguarding world peace.

32. Canada Legalises Marijuana

- Canada has legalised recreational marijuana across the country this week, making it the first G7 country to do so. Cannabis possession first became a crime in Canada in 1923 but medical use has been legal since 2001.
- Legal cannabis will be heavily regulated, however. Under guidelines from Canada's public health agency, marijuana products will be sold in plain packaging with limited branding.
- Packaging will include a yellow health warning and a red stop sign indicating that the product contains cannabis.
- Adults will only be allowed to carry up to 30g of dried cannabis. Exceeding this amount in a public space – including an individual's own vehicle – will be punishable by up to five years in prison. Driving under the influence of cannabis will also be highly punishable.
- The country is the second worldwide to legalise the drug's recreational use. *Uruguay became the first country* to legalise the sale of cannabis for recreational use in December 2013, while a number of US states have also voted to permit it.

33. World Refugee Day 2018

- World Refugee Day 2018 was celebrated on June 20th. It is run by the United Nations Refugee Agency.
- Theme of World Refugee Day 2018 - **“Now More Than Ever, We Need to Stand with Refugees.”**
- World Refugee Day honours the strength and courage of refugees and encourages public awareness and support of the refugees, people who have had to flee their home lands because of conflict or natural disaster.
- United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, defines refugees as those who have fled their country owing to well-founded fear of persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, membership in particular social group or political opinion.

34. New Director General of UN Migration Agency

- António Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino of Portugal was elected as the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) next Director General.
- Mr. Vitorino, succeeds the United States' William Lacy Swing, who is leaving IOM after serving two five-year terms as Director General.
- IOM is the UN Migration Agency and is the leading inter-governmental organisation in the field of migration. It is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. It was established in 1951.
- IOM was granted permanent observer status to the UN General Assembly in 1992. IOM joined the UN system as a related organization in September 2016, when the agreement was signed during the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants.
- IOM works in four broad areas of migration management: Migration and development, Facilitating migration, Regulating migration and Forced migration. It has 166 member states and 8 states holding observer status.

35. Operation NISTAR

- Operation NISTAR was a swift Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Operation (HADR) conducted by Indian Navy.
- Indian Naval Ship Sunayana successfully evacuated 38 Indian Nationals at/ off Socotra Islands during the operation.
- The Indian Nationals were stranded for nearly ten days after severe Cyclonic Storm – Mekunu devastated the area around Socotra Island.

- INS Sunayna was diverted from Gulf of Aden deployment to Socotra Island for search and rescue operations after Indian Navy received a distress call from Directorate General of Shipping and Indian Sailing Vessels Association.

36. Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project

- Minister for Irrigation of Nepal Deepak Giri and Indian Ambassador to Nepal have jointly inaugurated the Nepal-Bharat Maitri Irrigation Project.
- Under the project, 2,700 shallow tube well irrigation systems have been installed in 12 districts in Tarai region.
- The project was launched in January 2017 to boost growth to Himalayan nation's agricultural sector through enhanced facilities.
- India provided financial assistance to Nepal to ensure all-season irrigation facility to about 8,115 hectares of farm land, augment productivity of rice, wheat and seasonal vegetables, fruits and other crops.
- The project is helping to uplift the socio-economic status of a large number of farming households.

37. Mauritius to host 11th World Hindi Conference

- The 11th World Hindi Conference will be held in Mauritius from August 18 to August 20, 2018.
- Aim of this conference will be to increase the popularity of Hindi globally. The Ministry of External Affairs also aims to promote Hindi at the United Nations and in this regard, a lot of work is being done and the disclosures would be made at the World Hindi Conference.
- The World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) will be the organising authority of the event. The World Hindi Secretariat (WHS), supported by India, is located in Mauritius.

38. SAARC Fund to Launch Social Enterprise Programme in India

- Thimpu-based SAARC Development Fund (SDF) will soon be launching a social enterprise development programme (SEDP) to fund 80 entities annually across the 8-member states including India.

- SDF was established by the Heads of the eight SAARC member states in April 2010 during 16th SAARC summit and its Governing Council comprises finance ministers of these eight countries.
- It is successor of South Asian Development Fund (SADF), which was launched in 1996 by merging two existing facilities called SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) and SAARC Regional Fund.
- The objectives of SDF are to promote welfare of the people of SAARC region, improve their quality of life and accelerate economic growth, social progress and poverty alleviation in the region.
- It funds the project through three window : Social Window, Economic Window and Infrastructure Window. SEDP is being launched as part of its social window

- It will be implemented in all the SAARC member states with the objective of identifying and building social enterprises by using a mix of grants and concessional returnable capital.
- SDF has already committed USD 73.74 million for social window projects as of date out of which it has disbursed USD 47 million to the member states for social window projects.
- SDF would create access to financial services which can in-turn boost job creation, raise income, reduce vulnerability and increase investments in human capital in --

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (SAARC members).

- SDF recently gave in-principle approval of two infrastructure projects in energy sector. These include waste to energy project in Sri Lanka with participation of India and hydropower project in Nepal with participation of Bangladesh and India.

39. International Conference on ICT

- Federation of Computer Association Nepal (CAN Federation) has organized the 18th edition of International ICT Conference 2018, from June 17 to 18 at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The Theme of the conference was “**Sustainable Development Goals for Smart Society**”.
- Different paper presentations, open sessions and panel discussion on related topics of Sustainable Development for Smart City/Village/Communities were held at the conference.
- Most of the topic were focused on achieving SDG using ICT as a smart tool for making Smart Society.
- The conference aimed to bring the government and private sector together for developing a plan of action with an interest of using sustainable ICT systems or applications.

40. RIMPAC 2018

- As many as 26 countries, including India, would participate in the biennial **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** military exercise from 27 June to 2 August, in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California.
- It is Known as the world's largest international maritime exercise, which was first began in 1971.
- 4 countries – Brazil, Israel, Sri Lanka and Vietnam – are participating in RIMPAC for the first time.
- The theme this year is “**Capable, Adaptive, Partners.**”
- China has been disinvented from the RIMPAC 2018 as an initial response to China's continued militarization of the South China Sea. China first participated in the RIMPAC exercises in 2014.

41. India to host first BIMSTEC Military Exercise

- India will host the first military exercise of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism.
- The exercise is scheduled to be held in Pune in the second week of September.
- The conclave of Army chiefs is scheduled on the last two days of the exercise. The chiefs will debate the challenge of terrorism and transnational crime, which is a major concern among all the states and on how they can promote collective cooperation.
- BIMSTEC countries held a disaster management exercise in 2017, but this is the first military exercise of the grouping which brings together important neighbours of India in South and Southeast Asia.
- BIMSTEC was set up in 1997 and includes India, Bangladesh, Bhutan Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

42. Malabar 2018

- The 22nd edition of the Malabar trilateral naval exercise of the US, Japan and India kicked off at Guam in the Pacific Ocean.
- The Malabar exercise usually features both ashore and at-sea training.

- This is the first time that the prestigious Malabar exercise is being conducted off Guam, a major US Naval Base in the Western Pacific.
- The Malabar exercise was started in 1992 as joint Indo-US naval drill. Since then it is held annually. After India conducted the nuclear test, the exercise was suspended from 1998 to 2002. Japan became the member in 2015.

43. Coast Guard Interceptor Boat Commissioned

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned an interceptor boat- ICGS C-439.
- Its induction will help to further enhance operational capabilities to undertake multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue and medical evacuations along western coast.
- It will be under operational and administrative control of commander, Coast Guard District Headquarters No.2 (Maharashtra), Mumbai.

44. SURYA KIRAN-XIII

- Exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIII, a joint military training exercise between India & Nepal culminated at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
- The exercise included training on jungle warfare, anti-terrorism combat as well as disaster response activities.
- In 2017, the 12th edition of Surya Kiran Military exercise was held in Kathmandu.

45. India, Bangladesh Navies to Join Hands

- India and Bangladesh have agreed to institute a **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** as an annual feature between the two navies.
- It will enhance operational interaction between both navies.
- The Navy regularly conducts CORPATs with Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand. It also conducts EEZ surveillance of Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles on their request.
- Over the last few years, Indian Navy has expanded its assistance to countries in the region through “material support, training, EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance, provisioning of platforms, hydrographic assistance, joint exercises and offering slots in professional training courses.

46. Rani Rashmoni Commissioned

- The last of the five Fast Patrol Vessel project of Indian Coast Guard ‘Rani Rashmoni’ was commissioned. The ship will be based in Visakhapatnam.
- So far four such ships such as ICGS Rani Abbakka, ICGS Rani Avanti Bai, ICGS Rani Durgavati and ICGS Rani Gaidinliu, have been commissioned and are in active service at various locations on the eastern seaboard.
- The FPVs are equipped with advanced sensors and state-of-the-art equipment and are designed to perform multifarious tasks such as surveillance, interdiction, search and rescue, anti-smuggling and anti-poaching, operations.
- The FPV was indigenously built by Hindustan Shipyard.

47. COP CONNECT

- ‘COP CONNECT’, a mobile app to support the professional communication and collaboration needs of the entire police department of Telangana, has been launched.
- It was developed based on the Telangana State Police internal Communication strategy, which would help the entire work force to proactively engage and consult each other so

that they are able to play an active role in delivery of uniform Police Services across the state.

48. Pinaka Rocket System Converted into Guided Missile

- The indigenous Pinaka rocket system of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), known for firing a salvo of 12 rockets in just 44 seconds, is being evolved into a precision-guided missile, with enhanced range and accuracy to hit its targets.
- The initial version of the Pinaka rocket was further developed into Pinaka Mark II, which has an enhanced range of 70 to 80 km compared to Mark I, with a range of 40 km.
- Pinaka Mark I was widely used during Kargil war.
- The rocket has been developed by the Armament cluster of the DRDO, with a lead from Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE).
- Along with ARDE, the High Energy Material Research Laboratory in Pune and two DRDO establishments in Hyderabad have contributed to the development.

49. Cooperation on Maritime Awareness Mission

- The Union Cabinet has approved Implementing Arrangement (IA) between India and France for pre-formulation studies of Maritime Domain Awareness Mission.
- The proposed joint mission will be devoted to maritime domain awareness, with the objective to provide relevant data and services to both nations.
- The objective is to monitor the maritime traffic and to identify the non-compliant ships at the maximum possible revisit frequency.
- The monitoring system would provide an end to end solution for detection, identification, monitoring of vessels in the regions of interest for India and France.

50. Indian Army Contingent In UN South Sudan Force Awarded

- The 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry Battalion Group, which is part of the UN peacekeeping force in South Sudan, was awarded the United Nations Medal for "selfless service".
- Indian Battalion has carried out numerous operational tasks with utmost "professionalism and dedication" to the UN mandate. It has played an active and decisive role in ensuring peace and stability in Jonglei State.
- According to the data obtained from UN Peacekeeping Missions website, India contributes over 6,000 troops in 14 missions across the world.

51. Epic: New Planet Discovered

- A team of scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, discovered a sub-Saturn or super-Neptune size exoplanet, which is about 27 times the mass of Earth and six times the radius of Earth. The planet revolves around a Sun-like star, some 600 light years away from Earth.
- The discovery was made by measuring the mass of the planet **using the indigenously designed 'PRL Advance Radial-velocity Abu-Sky Search' (PARAS) spectrograph** integrated with 1.2m telescope at PRL's Gurushikar Observatory in Mount Abu. With this discovery, India has joined a select league of countries which has discovered planets around stars.
- Indian Space Research Organisation, scientists said the **name of the host star is EPIC 211945201 or K2-236 and the planet will be known as EPIC 211945201b or K2-236b**. The planet was found to go around the star in about 19.5 days.

- The surface temperature of the planet was found to be around 600 degrees Celsius, as it is very close to the host star. It is **seven times nearer to its star**, in comparison with Earth-Sun distance. This might make it uninhabitable. The discovery is of importance for understanding the formation mechanism of such super-Neptune or sub-Saturn kind of planets, that are too close to the host star.
- Paros spectrograph made an independent measurement of the mass of the planet body, as it was necessary for discovery after data from Nasa's K2 (Kepler2) photometry could not confirm the planetary nature of the system.
- PRL scientists, who observed the target for about 1.5 years with the spectrograph to probe the nature of the system, made calculations that suggested that the heavy elements like ice, silicates and iron content make 60%-70% of the total mass. Only 23 such systems (including the present) are known to this date with such precise measurement of mass and radii.

52. Reunite' App Launched To Track Missing Kids

- The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation has launched mobile application "ReUnite" in New Delhi to track and trace missing and abandon children in India. The app is available for both Android and iOS. It has been developed by Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi's NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan.
- The ReUnite app is multiuser where parents and citizens can upload pictures of children and provide detailed description like name, address, birth mark search and identify missing kids and report to the police station. It uses Amazon Rekognition, a web based facial recognition service to identify missing kids. The photographs uploaded on the app will not be saved in the mobile phone's physical memory.

53. Taj Declaration To Beat Plastic Pollution Adopted In Agra

- A Taj Declaration to Beat Plastic Pollution was adopted as part of which efforts would be made to make the 500-metre area around the historic ivory-white marble monument litter-free and phase out single-use plastic.
- Well before the declaration was undertaken, workshops were conducted to deal with problem. The major focus of the workshop is to curb littering around the 17th century monument. Short term and Long term plans are worked up on.

54. Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project

- The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) approved the revised cost estimate of the Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP) and extended time period for conclusion of the project till June 2020.

About Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP)

- DRIP is a state sector scheme with central component to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams, along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach.
- **The project, with financial support from the World Bank, was launched in 2012.**
- **The Scheme was originally scheduled for six years with closure in June 2018.**

Aim

- It aims to achieve rehabilitation of old dams in the country that may be experiencing distress and are in need of attention for ensuring their structural

safety and operational efficiency

- The project also aims to strengthen the institutional capacity and project management in this area.
- To enable the same, the project has been engaged in bringing greater awareness on dam safety issues and finding novel solutions to address them by pooling the best technologies, knowledge and experience available around the world.

Three Main Components

1. Rehabilitation of selected dams and their appurtenances
2. Institutional Strengthening
3. Project Management

Participating States

The participating States/Agencies in the DRIP are Damodar Valley Corporation, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited and Central Water Commission.

55. NLCIL'S Three 100 Mw Solar Power Projects

- Union Minister has inaugurated three Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Limited (NLCIL) 100 MW Solar Power Projects each in Tamil Nadu.
- The projects which were erected at Thoppalaakkurai, Sethupuram in Virudhunagar district and Sellaiya Sezhiyanallur in Tirunelveli district, with an installed capacity of 100 MW each, were dedicated to the nation.
- NLCIL comes under administrative control of Ministry of Coal and serves as important source of power generation to southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Rajasthan and Puducherry (UT). Currently, it operates four open cast lignite mines of total capacity of 30.6 Million Tonnes per Annum (MTPA) and 5 thermal power stations with total installed capacity of 3240 MW.

56. Ten New Swachh Iconic Places Launched Under Swachh Bharat Mission

- Ten new iconic sites, namely, **Raghavendra Swamy Temple (Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh), Hazardwari Palace (Murshidabad, West Bengal), Brahma Sarovar Temple (Kurukshetra, Haryana), Vidur Kuti (Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh), Mana village (Chamoli, Uttarakhand), Pangong Lake (Leh-Ladakh, J&K), Nagvasuki Temple (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh), Ima Keithal/market (Imphal, Manipur), Sabarimala Temple (Kerala) and Kanvashram (Uttarakhand)** have been taken up under phase III of the flagship project Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) of the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- SIP is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission and was launched in 2016. It was initiated as project to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of cleanliness (swachhata), so that all visitors benefit and also take away home message of cleanliness.
- Implementation of SIP: It is collaborative project of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation with three other central Ministries: Ministry of (M/o) Housing and Urban Affairs, M/o Culture, and M/o Tourism. It also involves local administrations in concerned states and public sector and private company are also sponsoring partners.