



# Current Affairs

## 21<sup>st</sup> June



# Presidential address

- ▶ All executive power is vested in the **President of India**.
- ▶ The **Council of Ministers** headed by the **Prime Minister** aids and advises the President who exercises his powers in accordance to such advice.
- ▶ **Article 87** of the constitution provides two instances when the President specially addresses both Houses of Parliament.



- ▶ The President of India addresses both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the **first Session** after each **general election** when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time.
- ▶ The President also addresses both the houses at beginning of the **first session of each year**.
- ▶ The President's speech essentially **highlights** the government's **policy priorities** and plans for the upcoming year.
- ▶ The address provides a broad framework of the **government's agenda** and direction.



# 1<sup>st</sup> joint session of the Parliament held

- ▶ **President Ram Nath Kovind** addresses both Lok and Rajya Sabha on **20<sup>th</sup> of June**.
- ▶ He outlines the priorities of the Modi government and give a **roadmap** to fulfil those objectives.
- ▶ In this Lok Sabha more than half MPs are **first-time lawmakers**, the number of **women MPs** is at all time high at 78. This is unprecedented. It represents a New India.



- ▶ **Environment and water conservation**
- ▶ The Ministry of **Jalshakti** has been created to work towards water conservation.
- ▶ To address the challenges posed by air pollution, the **National Clean Air Programme** has been started in 102 cities.
- ▶ **Health**
- ▶ The **Ayushman Bharat** Scheme has been implemented to provide health insurance to 50 crore poor persons.
- ▶ To provide medicines at affordable rates, 5,300 Jan **Aushadhi Kendras** have been opened.



- ▶ Eradication of practises like **Triple Talaq** and **nikah halala** is necessary.
- ▶ The **empowerment of women** and their effective participation in society and economy is the test of a developed society.
- ▶ The Government is of the view that not only women should grow, but they should be **led by development**.
- ▶ Zero tolerance to corruption.



- ▶ **Education**
- ▶ The amount of scholarship provided for **higher education** has been **increased** by **25%**.
- ▶ Additionally, the government is striving to increase the **number of seats** in higher education institutions by **1.5 times** by 2024.
- ▶ **Economy**
- ▶ Target to make India's economy worth **\$5 trillion** by 2024.



- ▶ **Space Exploration**
- ▶ The government seeks to launch **Chandrayaan-2**, which will be India's first aircraft to reach the moon.
- ▶ By **2022**, it also aims to send the first Indian to space under '**Gaganyaan**'.
- ▶ **National security**



# Changes to IT act to take effect soon

- ▶ The government will soon notify amendments to the **Information Technology (IT) Act** that seek to make it mandatory for online platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter to **trace** the originator of “**unlawful**” **content**.
- ▶ The amendments have faced a lot of criticism over fears of ‘**surveillance and censorship**’.
- ▶ It had brought new challenges for the law enforcement agencies, including inducement for recruitment of terrorists, circulation of obscene content, spread of disharmony and incitement to violence.



# Navy to build 6 submarines

- ▶ **Second project** being undertaken under the latest **Strategic Partnership (SP) Model**.
- ▶ The **first** being the procurement of **111 naval utility helicopters (NUH)**.
- ▶ The “**strategic partnership model**” is aimed at making efforts to stimulate defence manufacturing ecosystem in the country through involvement of Indian as well as foreign firms.



- ▶ As a major initiative towards ‘**Make in India**’, the government immediately on taking over has issued the **Expression of Interest(s)** for shortlisting of potential Indian (SPs) for “construction of **six conventional submarines for P-75(I)** project of the Indian Navy.
- ▶ All six submarines under this project will be built in India by the selected Indian Strategic Partner in collaboration with the selected **OEM**.
- ▶ An **original equipment manufacturer** is a company that produces parts and equipment that may be marketed by another manufacture



# NHRC questions frailty of health infrastructure

- ▶ The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** issued notices to the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry (MoHFW), and all States and Union Territories, over the deplorable public health infrastructure in the country.
- ▶ The commission reminded the state and central governments of their duties under the articles 21(Right to life) and 47 (Directive principles).



- ▶ Article 21 secures two rights:
- ▶ 1) Right to life, and
- ▶ 2) Right to personal liberty.
- ▶ “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to a procedure established by law.”
- ▶ Thus Article 21 signifies and means that no member of **executive or government** shall be entitled to interfere with life and liberty of an individual unless supported by **provisions of law**.



- ▶ **Article 47** of the constitution of India is one of the **Directive Principles** which directs the **State** to raise the level of **nutrition** and the **standard of living** and to improve **public health** as among its primary duties.
- ▶ In particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about **prohibition** of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health.



# Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast since 2009

- ▶ Himalayan glaciers are melting twice as fast now as they were before the turn of the century, according to a new study that relied on recently declassified **Cold War-era satellite imagery.**
- ▶ Scientists combed **40 yrs** of satellite observations spanning 2,000 Km across India, China, Nepal and Bhutan.



- ▶ Scientists found that the glaciers have been losing the equivalent of a **foot-and-a-half (45cm)** of ice each year since 2000.
- ▶ The study goes to assert that the **raising temperatures** are responsible for the accelerating loss.
- ▶ The temperature has been increasing with an average of **1 degree Celsius** since 2000.



# 5<sup>th</sup> International Yoga day

- ▶ To raise **awareness** worldwide about the benefits of Yoga in daily life.
- ▶ The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.
- ▶ The **theme** of 5th International Yoga Day 2019 is "**Climate Action**".

Thank you

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