



**MADE EASY**

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY  
WEEKLY  
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**WEEK-3**

15<sup>th</sup> February - 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2021

---

**Targeted Examinations:  
CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship recently launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme in all the districts of India.

### Key Highlights

- Fellows under the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship will gain scholarly experience and technical knowledge. The expertise would allow them to understand the overall capabilities ecosystem.
- It would also help fellows to be attached to the District Skills Boards.
- The ministry highlighted that, this fellowship programme along with the recent launch of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0 and other academic partnerships with IITs, IIMs, KILA and GIZ-IGVET under the SANKALP scheme will help in empowering the districts and ensure the demand-driven skilling.

### Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme

- MGNF is a two-year internship scheme. It was introduced with the goal of improving the growth of skills at the district level. It was planned under the SANKALP scheme.
- The scheme was introduced with the goal of solving the issue of staff non-availability in order to introduce the services at district, state and national level.
- Under the programme, the fellows should be aged between 21 to 30 years to get enrolled.

#### NOTE:

The SANKALP scheme stands for the "Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion". This programme is assisted by the World Bank loan. The scheme was launched with the objective of strengthening the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).

## Ramanujan Machine

- A modern artificially intelligent mathematician named the "Ramanujan Machine" has the ability to expose secret relationships between numbers.
- The Ramanujan machine consists of algorithms that reach mathematical conclusions. These statistical assumptions are likely to be accurate, although they have not been confirmed.
- The set of algorithms has been named after the Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.

### About Srinivasa Ramanujan

- He was born in the year 1887. He was a child prodigy who had put forth several mathematical conjectures and proofs.
- He also suggested solutions to equations that had never been settled or had never been deemed unresolved.
- He was an Indian mathematician who lived in India during the British rule.
- He initially developed his own mathematical research in isolation and compiled around 3,900 results.
- In 1918, he was elected as a Fellow of The Royal Society London.

## The Burden on Indian Society "Report"

- The World Bank recently released its study, Traffic Accident Accidents and Disabilities: The Pressure on the Indian Population.
- This article was written by the Ministry of Road and Highway Transport.

### Key Findings

- The article mentions the unfair effect of a traffic accident on disadvantaged families. It also sheds light on the ties between poverty, traffic accidents, inequalities and disabled road users across India.
- The study points out that India has just 1% of the world's cars. And as it accounts for 11% of the world's death from traffic injuries.
- The world bank report highlighted that the road crash deaths among rural poor households accounts for 44 per cent.

- While, the road crash death among urban poor households accounts for 11.6 per cent.
- The report further highlights that the low-income household spends seven months of its income on post-road crash care.

## Green Super Ministry

- Italy has put climate change at the forefront of its proposals to run Italy. They set up a super ministry to ensure the transition to renewable energy powers the country's recovery.
- The super ministry has been set up with the goal of making full use of European Union funds in the area of climate change.

### Key Facts:

- The recovery plan of Italy has to be handed to the European Commission by April 2021 in order to get more than 200 billion euros (\$240 billion) of funds.
- This amount is needed for the country to revive the recession-hit economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- As per the European Union agreement, 37% of 200 billion euros must be diverted towards the transition to a low carbon economy.

16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## Credit Default Swap

- The Reserve Bank of India revealed the credit default swaps (CDS). It has allowed the retail users to do the transactions in permitted credit derivatives in order to hedge their underlying credit risk.

### Key Highlights

- As per the guidelines, the non-retail users will be allowed to do the transactions in credit derivatives for the purpose of hedging as well as other purposes.
- The person who is resident in India and a non-resident can participate in the market.

- As per the guideline, the exchanges can offer standardised single-name CDS contracts by specifying guaranteed cash settlement.
- The commercial papers, listed or unlisted rated rupee corporate bonds, Unrated bonds issued by the special purpose vehicles, certificates of deposit and non-convertible debentures of maturity up to 1 year are eligible to be a reference or deliverable obligation in the CDS contract.

### About Credit Default Swap:

- CDS is a derivative or contract that permits the investor to swap or offset his credit risk with another investor.
- It is a financial swap agreement where the seller of CDS will compensate the buyer in case of a debt default. In such an agreement, the seller of CDS insures the buyer against asset defaulting.

### ■ NOTE:

Hedging is a risk management strategy that is employed to offset losses in investments. The losses are offset by taking an opposite position in the defaulted asset. Hedging through reduces the risk associated with the assets but it also reduces the potential profits.

## Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

- The Union External Affairs Ministry announced that the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is in the final stages; however, the project was delayed because of various challenges.

### Kaladan Road Project

- It is a US\$484 million project that connects the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Rakhine State, Myanmar through the sea route.
- The project will link the Sittwe seaport in Myanmar to Paletwa in Chin State through the Kaladan river boat route.

- The project will connect the Paletwa by road route to Mizoram in Northeast India. Currently, the Sittwe port, river dredging and Paletwa jetty projects are completed.

#### ■ NOTE:

Sittwe is the capital of Rakhine State, Myanmar. The city is located on an estuarial island. It lies at the confluence of rivers Kaladan, Mayu, and Lay Mro..

### Ngozi Okonjo Iweala

- The Nigerian economist Ngozi Okonjo Iweala has been appointed as the head of the World Trade Organization. She has become the first woman to take this position.
- She has also become the first African to hold this charge amid rising protectionism.

#### Key Highlights:

- Okonjo-Iweala was named as the director-general by the representatives of the 164 member countries of WTO.
- The WTO is the organisation dealing with the rules of trade between the nations on the basis of negotiated agreements.
- The appointment of the African woman came after the US President Joe Biden approved her candidacy.

#### World Trade Organization (WTO)

- WTO is an intergovernmental organization. The body deals with the regulation of international trade between the nations. It was established in January 1995 in accordance with the Marrakesh Agreement.
- The Marrakesh Agreement was signed after the Marrakesh Declaration in April 1994. It was signed in Marrakesh, Morocco. The agreement was signed by 123 nations in April 1994.

### Nesting of Olive Ridley

- The mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtles has finally begun in the Puducherry coastline. The female Olive Ridley turtles are leaving hundreds of eggs at nesting spots.
- Puducherry coastline is among the migratory routes to Odisha which are used by these turtles. The coastline is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

#### The Olive Ridley:

- The scientific name of the turtle is *Lepidochelys olivacea*. It is commonly known as Pacific ridley sea turtle. The species belongs to the family Cheloniidae.
- It is second smallest and most abundant among all the sea turtles found across the world. The turtles are found in warm and tropical waters. It is primarily found in Pacific and Indian Oceans.
- These turtles are best known for their unique mass nesting. The mass nesting is termed as arribada. In the process, the female turtles come together in huge numbers on the same beach and lay eggs.
- The turtles have been classified as vulnerable in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). It is also listed in Appendix I of CITES.

17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

### Pey Jal Sarvekshan

- 'Pilot Pey Jal Sarvekshan' has been initiated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. This was launched under the Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban (JJM-U).
- This will be done in cities to ensure an equal allocation of water and the re-use of wastewater. The sarvekshan will also help to chart the bodies of water.

#### About Jal Jeevan Mission- Urban:

- The Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) was declared in the budget of the Union for 2021-22.

- The mission was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- It aims to provide uniform water supply coverage to all households with working taps.
- The universal coverage will be done in all the statutory towns. The mission has been launched in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal-6.

## Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021

- India has joined the 2021 Iran-Russia Maritime Protection Belt, a two-day naval exercise. The exercise is taking place in the northern portion of the Indian Ocean.

### Key Highlights:

- Forces and warships from the navy branches of both the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps participated in the exercise (IRGC).
- Several warships from the Russian Navy have participated in the drilling.
- The Indian Navy has participated in the exercise with chosen warships. The Chinese Navy will also engage in the exercise.

## About Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

- It is a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces. The branch was founded after the Iranian Revolution in April 1979. The IRGC was founded by the order of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It defends the Iranian borders and maintains the internal order.
- The Iranian Constitution has tasked the Revolutionary Guard with the work of protecting the country's Islamic republic political system. It also helps in preventing the foreign interference and coups.

## PiMo- eBike

- The Pi Beam, which is an IIT Madras-incubated start-up, recently launched the electric two-wheeler called 'PiMO'.

### Key Highlights:

- Pi Beam has set the target of selling 10,000 vehicles by the end of the financial year 2021-22.
- The bike was set up by IIT Madras Alum Visakh Sasikumar.
- An e-bike has already been pre-booked by 100 buyers.

### About PiMO

- The two-wheeler can charge faster than the smartphone. A sustainable and low-cost bike has a distance of 50 km.
- The e-bike has been launched in response to personal and commercial needs. It's been priced at 30,000 rs. No credential or registration is required.
- The e-bike stands between an electric bicycle and the entry-level electric scooter. It has a top speed of 25 kmph. The e-bike provided a higher travel range when compared to the electric bicycle category. The bike also offers a Battery Swapping' Technology.

### ECOPact

- ACC Ready Mix Concrete has recently launched a new low-carbon concrete line dubbed ECOPact.
- It is the "Green Concrete" that has been introduced for high-performance, renewable and circular construction.

### About ECOPact

- In the first step, ECOPact was deployed in Mumbai and Hyderabad.
- Within a few weeks, it will be carried out around the country in a staggered fashion.
- The ECOPact was initiated with the goal of improving the transition to low-carbon and circular building.
- The ECOPact's groundbreaking production process would minimise CO2 emissions by up to 100%.
- It would also improve the sustainable goods provided by the building industry.
- It is a concrete that has a lower carbon content of 30-50 per cent compared to the reference concrete that is constructed with the OPC.

- This creative collection uses reduced CO2 binders.
- It was developed using optimised mixing designs to reduce the carbon footprint.

### Types of the ECOPact range products

- The customers can choose the concrete on the basis of desired level of CO2 reduction and sustainability objectives.
- ECOPact PRIME- It offers CO2 reduction up to 50-70 percent.
- ECOPact MAX- It offers CO2 reduction greater than 70 percent.
- ECOPact ZERO- It is a combination of concrete technology excellence and climate action. Thus, it offers the elimination of the carbon footprint of concrete. Thus, reduces the overall carbon footprint of any structures.

18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

### World Solar Bank

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is preparing to launch the World Solar Bank (WSB) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.
- The WSB will be introduced since many ISA member countries face the task of raising finances on their own. In comparison, 800 million people who do not have access to electricity have been supported..

### Key Highlights:

- The establishment of the World Solar Bank will help India's efforts to protect its leadership in the climate arena.
- The establishment of the bank is important because green financing would be one of the priority topics of the climate meeting called the COP-26.
- COP-26 will be structured in the sense of the re-entry of the United States to the Paris climate agreement.

### About International Solar Alliance:

- The ISA has been co-founded by India. It was created at the Paris Climate Change Conference 2015. It is the first treaty-based foreign government body headquartered in India.
- It is the nodal agency to execute India's "One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)" global electricity grid programme.
- One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) was launched with the objective of transferring the solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of another region.

### TIGER X-1

- The Hyundai Motor Group has designed a walking car concept robot. It is being called as TIGER which stands for transforming intelligent ground excursion robots.

### Key Points:

- This is the first edition of the TIGER version. The robot is based on the architecture of the modular platform.
- The robot has a 360-degree directional control that allows it to determine the terrain in disaster-prone areas.
- The vehicle does not hold passengers, but it does carry cargo and sensors to observe the environment remotely.
- TIGER has been designed to function independently.
- It comprises a sophisticated leg and wheel locomotion system.
- This UMV has the features of both the robotic technology and the wheeled locomotion technology. Thus, the vehicle is capable of traversing the difficult terrain.

### Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children Act, 2015

- The Union Cabinet has approved the amendments to the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection of Children Act, 2015.

## Key Facts

- The amendment proposes that the ADMs should monitor the functioning of the agencies implementing this act in each district.
- Following this amendment, the District Child Protection Unit will operate under the District Magistrate (DMs).
- The DMs will also objectively assess the Child Protection Committee and the Specialist Youth Policing Force.
- The amendments authorise the District Magistrate along with Additional District Magistrate to issue the adoption orders in accordance with Section 61 of the Juvenile justice act.

## About Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015

- The Act was enacted by the Parliament of India by repealing the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of the Indian Youth Delinquency Act, 2000.
- This act requires teenagers under 16 and 18 years of age who are in trouble with the law and who are engaged in Heinous Crimes to be prosecuted as adults. It also aims to create a freely available law on adoption in India.
- The Act came into force in 2016. In order to smoothen the procedures for orphan, abandoned and surrendered children the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) was given the status of statutory body.

### ■ NOTE:

Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is an autonomous and statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It was established in 1990. CARA is the nodal body of the adoption of Indian children. It also monitors and regulates in-country and inter-country adoptions.

## PLI scheme for Telecom Sector

- The Government of India has approved the Telecom Development Related Incentive (PLI) requirements.
- The approval of the PLI scheme was granted for the production of telecommunications and network equipment in a bid to boost the local production of the components.
- Under the PLI scheme, Telecom production will be boosted for more than 5 years in order to increase production of more than Rs 2.4 lakh crore.

### Objectives:

- The Cabinet decision to approve the PLI scheme for the telecommunications industry intends to make India a global centre for the manufacture of telecommunications equipment.
- The Government also plans to make India a centre of the 4G/5G Fifth Generation Radio Connectivity Network, main communication facilities, and cellular equipment.
- This move will also boost the local manufacturing of telecom gear in the domestic market as well as for exports.
- The scheme would include main transmission infrastructure, 4G/5G and next-generation radio connectivity network and cellular equipment, Internet of Things (IoT) access devices, access and customer premises equipment (CPE) and business equipment such as switches and routers.

## About Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme

- This scheme was implemented in March 2020 with a view to improving domestic demand. It also aims to reduce import bills.
- The programme was introduced with the goal of offering incentives for businesses to boost the sales of domestically produced goods.
- This scheme does not stop any foreign companies to set shop in India. But, it also encourages the local companies to set up or expand the existing manufacturing units.

19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)

- The Prime Minister of India addressed the India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE).
- During the hackathon, he said that there is a need to look at India's consumption patterns. India also needs to look upon how to reduce their ecological impact.

### About I-ACE:

- The India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon was launched by the NITI Aayog Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
- This hackathon was launched in association with the commonwealth scientific and industrial research organisation (CSIRO) of Australia.
- It focuses on identification and development of the innovative technology solutions provided by students, MSMEs and start-ups from both the countries. It will help in encouraging a sustainable circular economy. This hackathon was launched with the aim of increasing long-term health and resilience.

### Themes of the I-ACE

- The I-ACE was organised under the four key themes namely,
- Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste.
- Innovation in packaging reduces packaging waste.
- Creating opportunities for plastics waste reduction.
- Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste.

## SWAMIH Fund

- The SWAMIH Fund is expected to produce its first completed apartments in the year 2021. It is a 250 billion-dollar fund set up by the Government of India.
- This fund was set up to finish the stalled housing schemes. The Fund provides a solution to the issue that hampered the savings of homeowners and distressed developers.

- SWAMIH stands for 'Special Window for Completion of Construction of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing Projects'.

### About SWAMIH Investment Fund:

- This fund was created to complete the development of stalled, RERA-registered, affordable and middle-income housing projects.
- It credits funding to ventures that are stalled due to lack of capital. It was founded as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund debt fund registered with SEBI.

## National Table Tennis Title

- Manika Batra has won the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship. She beat Reeth Rishya by 8-11, 10-12, 11-1, 11-9, 11-5, 11-6 at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula.

### Manika Batra

- She's an Indian table tennis player. She has been the top female table tennis player since November 2020. It was ranked 63rd in the world. The player specialises in playing long-pimples on her backhand. It's not always played by top pros. She has won the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2020.
- She won the 2011 Chile Open Silver Medal in the Under-21 category.
- In 2015, She won three medals at Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.
- In 2018 she was the only Indian who received "The Breakthrough Star Award" by ITTF.
- Though, in 2020, she could not secure a position in the Women's Team event at the Tokyo Olympics for India.

## Perseverance Rover

- NASA's Research Rover Perseverance has recently arrived on the Red Planet (MARS). This rover is the most sophisticated astrobiology experiment ever sent to another planet. It will first look at the remains of ancient microbial life on the planet.

## Key Highlights:

- The rover has been sailing across space for almost seven months.
- It travelled a total of 293 million miles or 472 million kilometres before entering the Martian atmosphere.
- It reached the MARS at a speed of 12,000 miles per hour or 19,000 kilometres per hour.
- The most challenging part of the robotic vehicle was its self-guided descent and landing during a complex series of maneuvers. It was called 'seven minutes of terror' by NASA.

## About Perseverance rover:

- The rover will observe the planet's astro-biologically important ancient climate. It will also take care of the surface geological processes and history.
- The rover would also determine historical habitability and the likelihood of past life on it. The nature of the rover is inspired by the rover of Curiosity.
- It uses components that have been already fabricated and tested. It comprises 19 cameras and two microphones. Thus, it will also record the audio of the environment on MARS.

20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## PASSEX Exercise

- The Indian and the Indonesian navies held the PASSEX military exercise in the Arabian sea. This military exercise was organised in order to enhance the operational interoperability and the overall cooperation.

## Key Highlights

- INS Talwar represented the Indian naval ship.
- The Indonesian Navy was represented by the multirole corvette KRI Bung Tomo.
- India's maritime cooperation
- India's maritime cooperation with Indonesia has gained momentum in the last few years. Indian Navy also participated in the several maritime exercises notwithstanding the covid-19 pandemic.

- It held the maritime exercises with countries like Russia, Japan, Australia and the US.

## Exercise Malabar

- It is a trilateral naval exercise between the United States, Japan and India This drill was started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise involving India and the United States.
- Japan was made a permanent partner in the exercise in 2015. The exercise is often joined by the non-permanent members like Singapore and Australia.

## 'Smart' Anganwadis

- The government of Kerala has sanctioned 9 crore for the conversion of conventional anganwadis into "smart" anganwadis with better amenities.

## Smart Anganwadi Scheme

- Under this scheme, the Department of Women and Child Development has granted 48 anganwadis of the states to construct its new buildings.
- The smart anganwadis will be built in order to provide early childhood care in a phased manner.
- These facilities will be established with the aim of making it more child-friendly. This way these facilities will help to nurture mental and physical development of children.
- To construct 48 anganwadis, a total of nine crore rupees has been sanctioned.

## Anganwadi scheme

- It is a type of rural child care centre that was started in the year 1975 by the Indian government. This scheme runs under the Integrated Child Development Services program.
- It seeks to combat child hunger and malnutrition. These centres work in villages where they provide basic health care under the Indian public health care system. The basic health care activities are nutrition education, contraceptive counselling & supply.

## Paris Climate Deal

- The United States has officially re-joined the Paris climate accord. With the rejoining of the US, the world leaders expect that now the country will prove its seriousness as it was mostly absent for four years.

### Key Highlights:

- The countries are also waiting for the announcement from Washington on the US's goal to cut emissions of heat-trapping gases by 2030.
- The president of the US, Joe Biden, had signed the executive order to reverse the withdrawal ordered by former President, Donald Trump.

### About Paris Climate Agreement

- It is an agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This agreement was signed in 2016 and deals with climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance.
- This agreement was negotiated by the representatives of 196 states. It was signed at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in France.
- The agreement was later adopted by consensus in December 2015. Currently, 190 members of the UNFCCC are parties under the agreement. Countries like Turkey, Iran, and Iraq are not parties to it.

## Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- The Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan, has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0. The mission will be conducted in two rounds.
- The first round will start from February 22, 2021 while the second phase will start from March 22, 2021.

### Key Points:

- The IMI 3.0 initiative was launched by the central government in order to provide immunization to the pregnant women and children free of cost in India.

- The scheme will strengthen and re-energize immunization programmes.
- It will help in achieving full immunization coverage for children and pregnant women rapidly.
- This mission also aims to reach the unreached population. It will reach to them with all the available vaccines under the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

## Mission Indradhanush

- This Mission was launched in December 2014 with the aim of fully immunizing unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children under UIP.
- The scheme targets children aged under 2 years and pregnant women for immunization.
- The mission incorporated immunization programme against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) namely, Whooping cough, diphtheria, polio, tetanus, meningitis, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B infections, rotavirus vaccine, Japanese encephalitis (JE), measles-rubella (MR) and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).

21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## Sub-categorisation of OBCs

- The chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), Bhagwan Lal Sahni, said that the NCBC is in favour of four subcategories of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs). This move complies with the recommendation of the Justice Rohini Commission.

## Justice Rohini Commission

- It was founded on 2 October 2017. The Commission was appointed to review and report on the subcategorization of OBCs.
- The report will be submitted by the Commission by July 2021. The terms of reference of the panel are to research the extent of the inequitable allocation of the benefits of the reserve among the caste or group.

## Sub-Categorisation of OBCs

- The subcategories of the OBCs would be achieved by bearing in mind certain parts which either have benefited sufficiently or have benefited less from the reservation.
- While the other two groups would be for the least benefited and those not benefited from the new OBCs reservation system.

### ■ NOTE:

As per Article 338 B, the commission comprises a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members. The appointment, conditions of service and tenure of office of all of them is decided by the President.

## Kala Namak Rice

- The state of Uttar Pradesh is all ready to export a shipment of 20 tonnes of Kala Namak rice to Singapore. The shipping of 20 tonnes will be transported from Siddharth Nagar to Singapore.
- Rice is sold in glass jars, and also addresses the consistency of the rice.
- The packaging of the rice is a famous quote from Mahatma Buddha: "The unique aroma of the rice will remind people of me."
- The state government has also declared rice once District One commodity of Siddharth Nagar. At the same time, the central government proclaimed one product of Gorakhpur, Basti, Maharajganj and Sant Kabir Nagar to be a district.

## Kala Namak Rice

- This rice is also called Buddha Rice.
- It is one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice grown in India.
- Reis is sometimes referred to as 'Buddha Ka Mahaprasad' (an offering to Lord Buddha).
- The rice was given to the Buddhist monks in order to promote rice in the Buddhist countries.
- It is mainly cultivated in Deoria, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Gonda, Maharajganj, Siddharth Nagar, Balrampur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Bahraich, Shravasti. The Geographical Indications (GI) claims that these regions share a similar climate.

## State Bank of Sikkim

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought the State Bank of Sikkim under its regulation.

## State Bank of Sikkim

- It is a state-owned banking institution.
- The headquarters of the bank is at Gangtok, Sikkim.
- It operates under the jurisdiction of the State of Sikkim.
- The bank handles the banking services as well as the treasury functions of the State Government of Sikkim.
- The bank is an autonomous body working under the Government of Sikkim.
- It was established in the year 1968 five years before Sikkim was made a part of India in 1973.

