



Daily Current Affairs Dated On 21-May-2018

General Studies-1

Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (SBS)

Why in News?

Sadharan Brahmo Samaj (SBS), the party funded by Rabindranath Tagore's father in the initial years, has entered into a legal battle with the State government over its decision to dissolve the governing bodies of eight colleges in Kolkata run by the organisation.

'Non-minority colleges'

The governing bodies of the eight colleges were dissolved following the decision of the State's Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department to not to grant the SBS the status of a minority religion in an order dated September 8, 2017.

The order argued that since SBS is not a "separate minority religion", the related colleges administered by it should be treated as "non-minority Government-aided Colleges."

The order further stated that the governing bodies of the colleges administered by Bramho Samaj Education Society (BSES) — the SBS' education wing — be immediately dissolved.

About Sadharan Brahmo Samaj:

The Brahmo Samaj was formed by Raja Rammohan Roy as an alternative to the prevalent trends of Hinduism on August 20, 1828.

Due to ideological differences, Keshab Chandra Sen, one of its key leaders, formed a separate organisation called the Bramho Samaj of India in 1866.

The SBS was formed at a public meeting in May 15, 1878, at the Town Hall in Kolkata, following differences between its founders and Mr. Sen.



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Ananda Mohan Bose, Shibchandra Deb and Umeshchandra Datta were the key leaders of SBS. Debendranath Tagore, father of Rabindranath Tagore was actively involved with the organisation.

Census and Statutory towns:

There are 2,231 villages that are likely to be declared new census towns for the upcoming census, says a recent study by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR).

Census towns are an anomaly that burst into the limelight during the last census in 2011.

Criterion for Census Town:

They are settlements which are larger (at least 5,000 people) and, denser (at least 400 people per sq. km) than most villages, with at least three-fourths of their male population not working in agriculture.

They are still governed like villages by rural panchayats, unlike statutory towns which are governed by urban local bodies (ULBs).

The census has been tracking this phenomenon since 1961.

But their growth was relatively low, touching 1,362 census towns by 2001.

However, in the 2011 census, there were 2,600 new census towns, taking the total to almost 4,000. West Bengal has the most, with Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh also having large numbers.

In May 2016, the Union Ministry of Urban Development had written to the States, recommending that they convert all identified census towns into statutory ULBs in order to promote planned urban development.

However, the CPR researchers warn that across-the-board conversion into ULBs could hurt more than help. "Often, census towns are actually better governed than smaller statutory towns," said Mr. Pradhan.



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Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project:

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project and laid the Foundation Stone of the Pakal Dul Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir today. P

akal Dul, with 1000 MW capacity, will be the largest Hydro Power Project in Jammu & Kashmir on completion. It is also the first storage Project in Jammu & Kashmir.

330 MW Kishanganga Hydro Electric Project, located in Bandipora District of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is a run of river scheme.

Kishangana H.E. Project will provide a free power of 13 per cent to the state, which will be around Rs. 133 crore per year.

There are other benefits to the state like- Employment to the people of J&K, infrastructure development etc.

It is estimated that the project engaged about 1850 local persons during construction stage and 750 local persons during operation stage through direct and indirect employment.

The Project was handed over to NHPC for execution by the State Government after an MoU was signed between J&K Govt. and Ministry of Power, Govt of India in July 2000.

Pakal Dul project will have immense benefits for J&K. Around 3000 persons shall be employed directly/ indirectly during construction phase of the project. Further, around 500 persons shall be employed directly/indirectly during operation phase of the Project.

It has been agreed that the Govt. of J&K shall be getting 12 per cent free power after 10 years of commissioning of the Project and water usage charges as applicable. Additional 1 per cent free power will go towards Local Area Development Fund (LADF). Govt. of J&K has first right to purchase balance power of NHPC (49%) & PTC (2%). Furthermore, local population will be benefitted by the improvement and widening of roads and improvement of bridges under the Project.



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General Studies-2

Trans Fats in Diet:

The WHO recommendation is that people consume less than 1% of their energy from transfat.

This translates to 2.2 grams for a 2,000 calorie diet. In some countries, and for some populations within some countries, exposure may be five times higher than that.

Just how harmful are transfats? How does it affect children?

Artificial transfat raises bad cholesterol and lowers good cholesterol and is estimated to kill 540,000 people a year around the world. Transfat is harmful across the life course.

What disease burden does it translate into for India?

Published estimates are that transfat kills more than 60,000 people a year in India. However, there is currently limited data on what the level of exposure and consumption is in India.

If not stopped what could the "abuse" of transfat mean for India?

If the WHO-recommended REPLACE package isn't implemented in India, there will be lakhs of deaths and heart attacks that could have been prevented. Fortunately, the Government of India has indicated their commitment to eliminating industrially produced transfat in advance of the WHO target date of 2023.

The REPLACE action package proposes to provide countries with 'tools' to eliminate industrially produced transfats from their national food supplies.

What are these tools?

The six-step action package shows the way to elimination. This includes examples of regulations and laws that can be adapted to the local context,



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guidelines for testing of food and human serum to determine levels of exposure,

technical assistance to promote healthier oils, and examples from countries around the world that have already eliminated transfat.

The Government of India, through the FSSAI [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India], has required a reduction to 5% transfat in certain oils. The global best practice is a maximum of 2% in all oils, fats, and all foods. No formal decision has yet been made by the Government of India for complete elimination.

General Studies-3

Permanent Residency Status (PRS) scheme

Two years after it was launched by the Union government, the Permanent Residency Status (PRS) scheme providing a host of facilities for foreigners who invest at least Rs. 10 crore under the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) route is yet to find a single applicant.

Inflows dip

From April to December 2017, the FDI inflow stood at Rs. 2,31,457 crore, a decrease from Rs. 2,40,385 crore for the corresponding period in 2016.

Most European Union countries, the U.S., Canada and others offer permanent residency to foreign investors.

The U.S. offers the EB-5 visa programme where foreigners could apply for permanent residency if they created employment opportunities for 10 people with a minimum investment of Rs. 6.5 crore.

An official said this was not a "citizenship" that was being offered to foreigners and was subject to review every 10 years.

About PRS

The Union Cabinet had cleared the PRS in 2016 to boost its "Make in India" policy.



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The scheme is open for foreign investors who invest a minimum of Rs. 10 crore within 18 months or Rs. 25 crore in 36 months.

The foreign investment should result in generating employment to at least 20 resident Indians in every financial year.

PRS will be granted for a period of 10 years with multiple entry and can be renewed for another 10 years.

There will be no requirement of registration with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)," the Home Ministry document on the scheme said.

The PRS card holders are also eligible to buy residential property in India.

Among foreign countries, the maximum investment proposals in critical sectors such as telecom and defence that was cleared by Home Ministry in 2017, were from China, the U.K., the U.S. and Mauritius.

Security clearance

Last year, the Ministry gave security clearance to more than 1,071 proposals in 11 critical sectors like defence, telecommunications, information and broadcasting.

Over 90% of the FDI proposals have come through the automatic route, an official said. Among the foreign countries, the U.S., China (including Hong Kong), Mauritius and the U.K. have received the green signal for the most number of projects at 10 each, followed by Germany at six, Bangladesh at three and Italy, Israel, Netherlands and Switzerland at two each.

Mission Innovation

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change Dr. Harsh Vardhan will be leading an Indian delegation for participation in the Mission Innovation Ministerial being held at Malmo-Sweden during 22-23 May, 2018.



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About MI:

Mission Innovation is a global platform of 23 countries and European Union aimed at accelerating clean energy innovations through enhanced Government funding, greater public-private sector partnership and enhanced global cooperation.

India is founding member of Mission Innovation and part of the Steering Committee besides co-lead of innovation challenges on smart grids, off grids and sustainable bio-fuels.

uring the visit, Minister will show case India's commitment to clean energy through research, development and demonstration programmes initiated in partnership with Mission Innovation countries in various domains of clean energy.

The Minister will also explore opportunities for research cooperation with Mission Innovation countries for affordable clean energy innovations. Besides participation in Mission Innovation Ministerial, Dr Harsh vardhan will also hold bilateral meetings with his counter parts from Denmark, Sweden, Canada and European Commission.