



**C.A Dated on 13-07-2018**

## **General Studies-1**

### **Lunar Eclipse:**

#### **Why in News?**

A total lunar eclipse will occur on July 27-28, 2018 with a totality duration of 1 hour 43 minutes.

The duration makes it the longest total lunar eclipse of this century (2001 AD to 2100 AD).

#### **Cause of Eclipse:**

On July 27, the red planet Mars, will also be at opposition, meaning that the Sun and Mars will lie opposite to each other, keeping the Earth in the middle.

This will result in Mars coming close to the Earth, causing it to appear brighter than normal and it will be seen from evening to dawn towards the end of July.

The brighter Mars will remain very close to the eclipsed Moon in the sky on July 27-28 and can be spotted very easily with the naked eye.

#### **Earlier Incidents**

The planet Mars comes at opposition at an average interval of 2 years and 2 months when the planet comes close to the Earth and becomes brighter.

Mars opposition that had occurred in August 2003 brought the two planets closest distance in approximately 60,000 years.

The closest approach of Mars on July 31, 2018 will bring the two planets closest and the planet Mars to be seen brightest since 2003.

## **General Studies-2**

### **Target Olympic Podium Scheme**



**C.A Dated on 13-07-2018**

### **Why in News?**

The Mission Olympic Cell has included the entire Indian hockey team in the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, rewarding the players for their silver medal-winning performance at the Champions Trophy.

### **Significance of the move:**

Athletes from different sports have been included in Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) individually but it is first instance that an entire team has been made beneficiary of the financial assistance scheme.

### **About Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS):**

- It was launched by *Ministry of Sports within the ambit of National Sports Development Fund (NSDF)*.
- It aims at identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for upcoming Olympic Games.
- It will provide selected sportspersons customized training at institutes having world class facilities and also other necessary support is being provided to the elite athletes. It will also provide a benchmark for selection of athletes on par with international standards.
- Under it, Sports Authority of India (SAI) and federations, which are members of Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), will be nodal agencies for disbursement of fund. They will make payments directly to beneficiary person and institution concerned on behalf of athletes.

### **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)**

#### **Why in News?**

Dr. TCA Raghavan is the new Director General (DG) of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA).



**C.A Dated on 13-07-2018**

**Appointment:** He was *selected by Governing Body and Governing Council of ICWA headed by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.*

**About ICWA?**

It was established in 1943 by group of Indian intellectuals as think tank. It was established as non-official, non-political and non-profit organisation under Registration of Societies Act 1860.

- It was declared *institution of national importance* by Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), 2001 enacted by Parliament.
- *The Vice President of India is the ex-officio President of ICWA, while the Minister of External Affairs is its Vice-President.*
- ICWA is devoted exclusively for the study of international relations and foreign affairs. Vice President of India is its ex-officio President.
- It had conducted historic international conferences like Asian Relations Conference in 1947 under leadership Sarojini Naidu and United Nations and New World Order in 1994.

**General Studies-3**

**Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation launches the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 (SSG 2018) in the capital today.

An independent survey agency will conduct the survey in all districts from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and the results will be announced in the form of a ranking of all districts and states on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation (Swachhata) parameters.

The objective of SSG 2018 is to undertake a ranking of states and districts on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative SBM-G parameters.

In the process, through a countrywide communication campaign, rural communities will be engaged in the improvement of the sanitation and cleanliness of their surrounding areas, he added.



### **C.A Dated on 13-07-2018**

As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen 6,980 villages in 698 districts across India will be covered. Total 34,000 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places in these villages will be visited for survey.

Parameters of Survey:

During the process, 65% weightage has been assigned to the findings and outcome from the survey and 35% to the service level parameters to be obtained from the IMIS of the MDWS. The weights to different elements of the SSG would be as below:

- Direct Observation of sanitation in public places: 30%
- Citizen's Feedback on sanitation parameters: 35%
- Service Level Progress on sanitation progress in the country as per SBMG- MIS: 35%

### **Performance Of SBM:**

Over 7.7 crore toilets have been built in rural India under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) since its launch in October 2014, with a usage of 93% as per an independent third-party survey conducted in 2017-18 across all States/UTs.

Nearly 4 lakh villages, over 400 districts and 19 States and Union Territories have declared themselves free from open defecation.

### **INS Tarangini**

#### **Why in News?**

INS Tarangini arrived at her seventh port, Sunderland in the UK, during her Lokayan-18 voyage and also to participate in the prestigious 'tall ship races - 2018'.

#### **About INS Tarangini:**

The ship is part of the first Training Squadron based at Kochi, under the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy. The name 'Tarangini' is derived

