



C.A Dated On 12-09-2018

General Studies-2

HIV/AIDS Act, 2017

Why in News?

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued a notification for bringing the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 in force from 10th September, 2018.

The Act, safeguards the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV.

The provisions of the Act address HIV-related discrimination, strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability, and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.

Salient Features of Act:

- The Act seeks to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS, prohibits discrimination against persons with HIV and AIDS.
- The Act lists various grounds on which discrimination against HIV positive persons and those living with them is prohibited.
- These include the denial, termination, discontinuation or unfair treatment with regard to:
- employment, (ii) educational establishments, (iii) health care services, (iv) residing or renting property, (v) standing for public or private office, and (vi) provision of insurance (unless based on actuarial studies).
- The requirement for HIV testing as a pre-requisite for obtaining employment or accessing health care or education is also prohibited.
- Every HIV infected or affected person below the age of 18 years has the right to reside in a shared household and enjoy the facilities of the household.
- The Act also prohibits any individual from publishing information or advocating feelings of hatred against HIV positive persons and those living with them.
- As per the provisions of the Act, every person in the care and custody of the state shall have right to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and counseling services.



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Curtain raiser: INDO-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018

Why in News?

As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 is scheduled to be conducted in the foothills of Himalayas at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand from 16 September to 29 September 2018.

This will be the 14th edition of the joint military exercise hosted alternately by both countries.

About the Exercise:

- The joint exercise Yudh Abhyas 2018 will simulate a scenario where both nations will work together in counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment in mountainous terrain under United Nation charter.
- The two week exercise will witness participation of about 350 personnel of the US Army and similar strength of the Indian Army.
- The exercise curriculum is progressively planned where the participants are initially made to get familiar with each other's organizational structure, weapons, equipment, confidence training and tactical drills.
- Subsequently, the training advances to joint tactical exercises wherein the battle drills of both the armies are coherently unleashed.

Benefits of Exercise:

- Both armies have vast experience in active counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations and sharing each other's tactics & drills in such diverse environment is of immense value.
- The exercise is a great step for the armies of the two democratic countries to train together and gain together from each other's rich operational experiences.
- The latest exercise will help further build interoperability between the forces of both the nations.



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General Studies-3

Apsara – U Reactor

Why in News?

Research reactors are the back bone of Nuclear Programme” said Dr. Homi J. Bhabha, the father of Indian Nuclear programme, in early fifties.

Subsequently “Apsara”, the first research reactor in Asia became operational in Trombay campus of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in August 1956. After providing more than five decades of dedicated service to the researchers, the reactor was shut down in 2009.

About Apsara Nuclear reactor:

- Apsara is the oldest of India’s research reactors. The reactor was designed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC) and built with assistance from the United Kingdom (which also provided the initial fuel supply consisting of 80% enriched uranium).
- Apsara first went critical on 4 August 1956.
- Apsara is a light water swimming pool-type reactor with a maximum power output of one megawatt thermal (MWt).
- The reactor burns enriched uranium in the form of aluminum alloyed curved plates. Fuel for the reactor is supplied under contract from the United Kingdom, provided that the fuel is safeguarded.
- The Apsara reactor is utilized for various experiments including neutron activation analysis, radiation damage studies, forensic research, neutron radiography, and shielding experiments.
- The reactor is also used for research and the production of radioisotopes.

Nearly sixty-two years after Apsara came into existence, a swimming pool type research reactor “Apsara-upgraded”, of higher capacity was born

About Apsara upgraded:

- The reactor, made indigenously, uses plate type dispersion fuel elements made of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU).



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- By virtue of higher neutron flux, this reactor will increase indigenous production of radio-isotopes for medical application by about fifty percent and would also be extensively used for research in nuclear physics, material science and radiation shielding.
- This development has re-emphasised the capability of Indian scientists and Engineers to build, complex facilities for health care, science education and research.

India's first missile tracking ship

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) is gearing up to undertake sea trials of India's first missile tracking ship by the first week of October.

About the Ship:

- The keel of the ship, which was laid on June 30, 2014, is being built for the National Technical Research Organisation, the technical intelligence agency working directly under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Adviser.
- This will be the first of its kind ocean surveillance ship being built as part of the efforts under the NDA government to strengthen the country's strategic weapons programme.
- This would put India in the elite of club of a few countries that have such a sophisticated ocean surveillance ship.

PM Mudra Yojana:

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has cautioned that the next crisis in India's banking sector could come from [loans](#) given to the unorganised micro and small businesses, called MUDRA loans, and credit extended through the Kisan credit card.

MUDRA loans are offered under the Prime Minister Mudra Yojana or PMMY, launched in 2015 by the NDA government.

About PM Mudra Yojana:



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A total of ₹6.37 lakh crore has been disbursed under the scheme by public and private sector banks, regional rural banks and micro-finance institutions till date, as per data from the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) website.

₹ PM MUDRA Yojana ₹

Products and Offerings

The primary product of MUDRA will be refinance for lending to micro businesses/units under the aegis of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana. The products would be covered under 'Shishu', 'Kishor' and 'Tarun' category to signify the stage of growth/development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/entrepreneur as also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation/growth for the entrepreneur to aspire for:

- Shishu : covering loans upto Rs. 50,000/-
- Kishor : covering loans above Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 5 lakh
- Tarun : covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and upto Rs. 10 lakh

Courtesy: pib.nic.in