



C.A Dated On 26-10-2018

General Studies-2

Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award

Why in News?

India wins Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award, 2018.

About CAPAM:

- It is a non-profit association representing an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth.
- The association is guided by international leaders who believe in the value of networking, knowledge exchange and the promotion of good governance for the betterment of citizens in the Commonwealth countries.
- CAPAM has been announcing its International Innovations Awards (IIA) Programme bi-annually, since 1998.
- The CAPAM Awards celebrate the spirit of innovation in the public service by recognizing organizations that have made significant contributions to improve governance and services in the public sector.

Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Why in News?

The Union Home Ministry has empowered the Collectors of certain districts in seven States to accept online applications to grant citizenship to "persecuted minorities" from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh living in India.

Background:



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A parliamentary committee has been examining the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which proposes to grant citizenship to six persecuted minorities: Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists who came to India from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh before 2014.

Deatails of Powers given:

- Home Ministry gave powers to the Collectors in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to grant citizenship and naturalisation certificates to the migrants under Sections 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- No such power has been delegated to Assam officials.
- Under the new rules, notified on October 24, the migrants can apply online, and the verification reports or the security clearance reports of the applicants shall be made available to the Centre through an online portal.
- Citizenship will be granted after the verification reports are received from the States and the Centre.

“The Collector or the Secretary shall maintain an online/digital as well as physical register, containing the details of persons so registered or naturalised as a citizen of India and furnish a copy thereof to the Central government within seven days of registration,” the notification said.

General studies-3

Technology Summit:

India will host the 24th edition of Technology Summit with Italy as the partner country.

This is the first time that Italy has been selected as partner country for this prestigious event.

Objectives of the summit:

- The Summit is envisaged to serve as a wide-ranging knowledge-business partnership platform.



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- Companies, institutions and government agencies from India and Partner Country (Italy) will endeavor to forge technology transfers / joint ventures / R&D partnerships with an aim to increase bilateral trade & investments.
- The Summit will also facilitate a comprehensive convergence of key elements of knowledge economy (science, technology & innovation; research & development; and higher education) of India and Italy.
- It is envisaged that the Technology Summit will help in strengthening, expanding and deepening India-Italy relationship in multiple ways.
- It will also strengthen the collaborations between industries and universities of both countries and would lead to scaling-up of the existing bilateral industrial R&D programs.

Background:

Genesis of this Tech Summit lies in the first CII Technology Summit organised 23 years back in 1995 with an aim to facilitate global technology collaborations.

After a few successful yearly summits, CII became partner with the Department of Science & Technology in organising these Summits since 2004.

Some of the outcomes of previous technology summits are:

- Stronger S&T collaborations with partner countries
- Large number of technology tie-ups between Indian and Partner Country's industry and research institutions
- Bilateral industrial R&D programs launched with Israel, Canada, Italy, Spain, Taiwan, S. Korea, UK, Finland
- Many industry-led collaborative R&D projects funded through Global Innovation & Technology Alliance.

Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar launched the web portal of the Scheme "**Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)**" in New Delhi today.

Aim of the Scheme:



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SPARC scheme aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world.

Details of Scheme:

- Under this Scheme, 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years to facilitate strong research collaboration between Indian research groups with the best in class faculty and renowned research groups in the leading universities of the world.
- This will include areas that are at the cutting edge of science or with direct social relevance to the mankind, specifically India.

Benefits Expected from Scheme:

- This scheme will improve research ecosystem of India's higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world (top-500 overall and top-200 subject-wise institutions listed in QS World University Ranking).
- They will jointly solve problems of national and international relevance. As per the criteria mentioned above, 254 top Indian Institutes and 478 top ranked global Institutes have been already identified.
- This Scheme is expected to have a major impact in providing the best international expertise:
- to address major national problems, expose Indian academicians to the best collaborators abroad, enable international faculty to stay in India for a longer duration, provide Indian students an opportunity to work in the world class laboratories, to develop strong bilateral relationships in research, and improve the international ranking of Indian Institutes.

Chandrayaan-2 lander

Why in News?



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Indian Space Research Organisation Friday said it has successfully conducted a scaled-down test for the soft and safe landing of its Chandrayaan-2 lander for India's second Moon mission.

About The Lander:

The moon lander, Vikram, named after the father of Indian [space programme](#) Vikram Sarabhai, is crucial to carry out various tests on the moon surface.

Scaled-down version of Chandrayaan-2 Lander Vikram completed, critical Lander Actuator Performance Test (LAPT) to demonstrate capabilities of navigation, guidance and control system of Vikram for a safe, soft and precise landing on the Moon.

The LAPT test was meant for compensating the effect of earth's gravity as compared to moon's gravity and to match the thrust generation of sea level liquid engines as compared to flight engines, which will operate in vacuum environment, it said.

Mission Highlights:

- It was the third and final test to demonstrate retargeting in a parabolic trajectory.
- The LAPT demonstrated the capability of the NGC system of 'Vikram' to meet the mission requirement of safe, soft and precise landing on the lunar surface by steering the module horizontally as well as vertically down to a pre-defined target, the release said.
- With this, all the tests have been completed successfully.
- This is a major milestone accomplished in Chandrayaan-2 Lander.

About Chandrayaan-2:

- ISRO intends to launch Chandrayaan-2 sometime in January next year. The Mission will have an orbiter, lander and a rover.
- **Chandrayaan-2** is India's second [lunar exploration](#) mission after [Chandrayaan-1](#).



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- Developed by the [Indian Space Research Organisation](#) (ISRO), the mission is planned to be launched to the [Moon](#) by a [Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III](#) (GSLV Mk III).
- It includes a lunar [orbiter](#), [lander](#) and [rover](#), all developed by [India](#).
- Chandrayaan-2 is scheduled to be launched no earlier than January 2019, and will attempt to soft land a lander and rover in a high plain between two craters, [Manzinus C](#) and [Simpelius N](#), at a latitude of about 70° south. If successful, Chandrayaan-2 will be the first-ever mission to land a rover near the [lunar south pole](#).
- According to ISRO, this mission will use and test various new technologies and conduct new experiments.
- The wheeled rover will move on the lunar surface and will perform on-site chemical analysis.
- The data will be relayed to Earth through the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which will piggyback on the same launch

About Chandrayaan-1

- India's first lunar mission Chandrayaan 1 was successfully launched in October 2008.
- Scientists have found frozen water deposits in the darkest and coldest parts of the Moon's polar regions using data from the Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft, US space agency NASA said in August. PTI GMS RA BN BN BN 10261938