



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

GS-2

70TH Anniversary of PLA(N)

Why in News?

IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti entered Qingdao, China to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) as part of 70TH Anniversary Celebrations of PLA (Navy) on 21 Apr 19.

Details:

- The participation of Indian Navy in PLA (N) IFR, for third consecutive time (2009, 2014 and 2019), is a demonstration of the Nation's commitment to enhance maritime cooperation between the two navies and bolster bonds of friendship between the two Countries.
- The *IN* has deployed its finest assets for the IFR with an aim to strengthen existing cooperation, enhance mutual trust, extend interoperability and build greater synergy to address common maritime concerns among participating navies.

Earlier Visits:

- The *IN* Ships had earlier called at Port Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam for a good will visit prior entering Qingdao.
- The ships are also scheduled to visit Port Busan, South Korea and Singapore on their return journey to India as part of Eastern Fleet Overseas Deployment.

Objectives:

The Annual Overseas Deployment to the South China Sea is an important facet of Government of India's 'Act East' policy and Indian Navy's efforts to "Unite Nations Through the Oceans", through which India wishes to extend the 'Bridges of Friendship' through enhanced cultural, economic and maritime interactions with countries of East and South-East Asia.



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

MOU signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi today for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.

- Previously, CSIR jointly with Department of AYUSH (now Ministry) developed the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a globally recognized proprietary database on Indian systems of medicine for preventing bio-piracy and misappropriation of our traditional knowledge.

About CSIR:

- The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research** abbreviated as **CSIR** was established by the [Government of India](#) in September of 1942 as an autonomous body that has emerged as the largest research and development organisation in India.
- As of 2013, it runs 38 laboratories/institutes, 39 outreach centers, 3 Innovation Centers and 5 units throughout the nation, with a collective staff of over 14,000, including a total of 3987 scientists and 6454 technical and support personnel.
- Although it is mainly funded by the [Ministry of Science and Technology](#), it operates as an autonomous body through the [Societies Registration Act, 1860](#).
- The research and development activities of CSIR include [aerospace engineering](#), [structural engineering](#), [ocean sciences](#), life sciences, [metallurgy](#), chemicals, [mining](#), [food](#), [petroleum](#), [leather](#), and [environmental science](#).

What is TKDL?



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

- The **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** is an [Indian digital knowledge repository](#) of the [traditional knowledge](#), especially about [medicinal plants](#) and formulations used in Indian systems of medicine.
- Set up in 2001, as a collaboration between the [Council of Scientific and Industrial Research](#) (CSIR) and the [MINISTRY OF AYUSH](#) the objective of the library is to protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation through [biopiracy](#) and [unethical patents](#), by documenting it electronically and classifying it as per [international patent classification](#) systems.
- Apart from that, the non-patent database serves to foster modern research based on traditional knowledge, as it simplifies access to this vast knowledge of remedies or practices

RTI plea :

Why in News?

As Jet Airways' employees protest their delayed salaries and demand financial support from lenders to revive the airline, the Central Information Commission has delivered a ruling in favour of the employees of another beleaguered aviation company which may empower the former.

Ruling of CIC:

- CIC ruled that the information must be released, keeping in mind the larger public interest of not just Cambata employees, but those of Jet Airways and the defunct Kingfisher Airlines as well.
- In his ruling last Thursday, Central Information Commissioner Bimal Julka ruled that the exemption given to "personal information" under the RTI Act referred to an individual human being and not a corporate entity.
- He added that the details sought were in the larger public interest of the company's employees.



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

- The RTI applicant had alleged that Cambata had wilfully defaulted in payment of statutory dues of Provident Fund, medical and life insurance and other employee benefits, apart from depriving workers of their salaries, resulting in extreme financial hardship.
- It had also not issued Form 16 to employees from 2014-15, he said.

GS-3

NIA:

Why in News?

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had specific intelligence on [Sunday's serial blasts in Sri Lanka](#).

While examining an Islamic State (IS) sympathiser in Tamil Nadu six months ago, investigators got to know of the terror plot and alerted the authorities concerned to pass on the information to Sri Lanka.

About NIA:

- **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** is a central agency established by the [Indian Government](#) to combat terror in [India](#).
- It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the [Parliament of India](#) on 31 December 2008.



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

- NIA was created after the [2008 Mumbai terror attacks](#) as need for a central agency to combat terrorism was realised.
- The conviction rate of this anti-terrorism agency is currently 95 per cent as it has managed to convict 167 accused in the 185 cases registered by it since its inception.

Vision:

- Agency aims to be a thoroughly professional investigative agency matching the best international standards.
- It aims to set the standards of excellence in counter terrorism and other national security related investigations at the national level by developing into a highly trained, partnership oriented workforce.
- It also aims at creating deterrence for existing and potential terrorist groups/individuals.
- It aims to develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information

Job Growth data:

Job creation dropped by 1.73% from 15.30 lakh in February last year to 15.03 lakh this year, according to the latest payroll data of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

The ESIC has released payroll data for April 2018, covering the period from September 2017.



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

Salient Observation:

- The data also showed that from September 2017 to February 2019, nearly three crore new subscribers joined the ESIC scheme.
- The gross new subscribers addition remained the highest at 19.81 lakh in July 2018. It showed that 2.34 lakh women subscribers joined the scheme in February 2019 while around 12.69 men enrolled.

Three times enrollment in EPFO

- In contrast to the ESIC data, the latest payroll data released by the retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) showed that net employment generation in the formal sector almost trebled to 8.61 lakh in February compared to 2.87 lakh last year.
- The EPFO has also been releasing payroll data from April 2018, covering the period starting September 2017.
- In February 2019, the highest number of 2.36 lakh jobs were created in the 22-25 years age group, followed by 2.09 lakh in 18-21 age group.
- The data showed that 80.86 lakh new jobs were created in the 18 months period from September 2017 to February 2019.
- ESIC provides health insurance and medical services to those insured, covering establishments that have 20 or more workers and all employees whose monthly wages are up to ₹21,000.

About ESIC:

- **Employees' State Insurance** (abbreviated as ESI) is a self-financing social security and [health insurance](#) scheme for Indian workers.
- This fund is managed by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) according to rules and regulations stipulated in the ESI Act 1948.
- ESIC is an autonomous corporation by a statutory creation under [Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India](#).



C.A Dated On 23-04-2019

Bullfrog tadpoles:

Why in News?

- Indian bullfrogs introduced in the Andaman islands are invasive, and eat native wildlife including fish and lizards.
- Now, experiments reveal that the frogs take to this invasive behaviour early in their lives.
- Even in the developmental stages, the large bullfrog tadpoles eat other native frog tadpoles, finds a study.

Background:

- The Indian bullfrog *Hoplobatrachus tigerinus* (native to the Indian subcontinent) has rapidly invaded the Andaman islands after it was introduced there in the early 2000s.
- In human-dominated areas, it now shares space with other native (and often endemic) frog species.
- The bullfrogs are prolific breeders: they have short breeding seasons, and each egg clutch can contain up to 5,750 eggs. Its tadpoles are carnivorous and eat other tadpoles (including their own species).
- Indian bullfrog tadpoles – which grew to be the largest (around 20 millimetres) – also grew the fastest.
- The proportion of bullfrog tadpoles surviving was greater in the presence of both endemic frog tadpoles. This is worrying because other native frog species – many of which are only being described – could also be affected,
- Humans play a huge role in the invasive success of these frogs and urgent management actions including screening at ports of entry could help prevent their spread to other islands.