

WHAT IS THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH (ICHR)?

Union Education Minister recently informed Lok Sabha that ICHR has not launched any project to rewrite Indian history and is only “filling gaps.”



About the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR):

- ICHR is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- It was established in 1972 by an Administrative Order.
- ICHR was registered under the Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860) as a literary and charitable society.
- The ICHR is based in Delhi, with regional centers in Pune (Maharashtra), Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Guwahati (Assam).
- The ICHR receives grants-in-aid from the Department of Higher Education, grants-in-aid from various Indian states, private donations, and the proceeds of revenues from the sale of publications of the ICHR.
- ICHR disburses funds for carrying out research to Indian as well as foreign scholars on their applications for fellowships, grants, and symposia, made to the ICHR or through the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- **Objectives:**
 - Bring historians together and provide a forum for the exchange of views between them;
 - Give a national direction to an objective and scientific writing of history and to have rational presentation and interpretation of history;
 - To Promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history with special emphasis on areas that have not received adequate attention so far;
 - To coordinate a balanced distribution of research efforts over different areas;
 - To elicit support and recognition for historical research from all concerned and ensure the necessary dissemination and use of results.

WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S COLOUR AWARD?

Union Home Minister will present the President's Colour Award to the state police at a ceremony at the Haryana Police Academy



About the President's Colour Award:

- The President's Colour is one of the **highest honour** that can be awarded to any military unit, military training establishments, and state/UT Police Forces of India.
- It is bestowed upon in **recognition of exceptional service rendered to the Nation**, both in peace and in war.
- It is also known as "**Rashtrapati ka Nishaan**" in Hindi.
- **Indian Navy was the first Indian Armed Force to be awarded the President's Colour by Dr. Rajendra Prasad on 27 May 1951.**
- **Award:**
- A **special flag, also known as 'Nishaan,'** is given to a unit as part of the award.
- The **flag consists of a golden border in the middle;** it has **insignia of a respective military unit,** training establishments, and police forces **in the center.**
- The flag **may also contain the motto,** important **achievements,** and battle participation of those military units to which the award is bestowed.
- During any ceremonial parade, the **President's Colour is kept at a special position,** and **soldiers often march with the President's Colour on important dates** like on their establishment anniversary.

BUDGET 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

The Central Government listed 7 priorities – called 'Saptarishi' in Budget 2023- inclusive development, Last mile delivery, Infrastructure, Green growth, Youth power, Unleashing potential, and Financial inclusion.



Key Initiatives under Last mile delivery:

Tribal Welfare:

Aspirational Blocks Programme:

- It aims to improve the performance of blocks lagging on various development parameters.
- This will enable **holistic development** in those areas that require added assistance.
- The programme will cover **500 districts across 31 states and Union Territories initially**.
- **Over half of these blocks are in 6 states**—Uttar Pradesh (68 blocks), Bihar (61), Madhya Pradesh (42), Jharkhand (34), Odisha (29), and West Bengal (29).
- It is **on the lines of the Aspirational District Programme** that was launched in 2018 and covers 112 districts across the country.

Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission:

- The mission will saturate the particularly vulnerable tribal groups with **safe housing, clean drinking water, education, nutrition, road, and telecom connection, and livelihood**.
- A **budget of Rs 15,000 crore** will be dedicated to this mission **in the next three years**.
- The scheme will **benefit 3.5 lakh tribals**.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools:

- EMRS started in the year **1997-98** to impart quality education to **ST children in remote areas**.
- Implementing ministry: **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- EMRSs will be set up in every block with **more than 50% ST population** and **at least 20,000 tribal persons**.
- **Budget 2023:** In the next three years, the center will recruit **38,800 teachers and support staff** for the 740 Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

Water for Drought Prone Region:

- Central assistance of **5,300 crores** will be given to **Upper Bhadra Project**.
- **Upper Bhadra Project:**

- It is a major **lift irrigation Scheme under implementation in the central region of Karnataka State.**
- It is **planned to irrigate 2,25,515 hectares by micro irrigation** in drought-prone districts of Chikkamagalur, Chitradurga, Tumkur and Davangere.
- It also proposes to **recharge groundwater tables** and provide drinking water by filling 367 tanks with six tmcft water in drought-prone taluks.

Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions (Bharat SHRI):

- It will be set up in a **digital epigraphy museum**, with the **digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.**

WHAT IS TAPAS UAV?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India has shared aerial coverage of Ground and Air displays captured from an indigenously developed Medium Altitude Long Endurance TAPAS UAV during rehearsal from a height of 12000 feet.



About TAPAS UAV:

- It is known as **Tapas-BH** (Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon 201), formerly referred to as **Rustom-II**.
- The UAV is named after Rustom Damania, a former professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- It is designed and developed by the **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**, Bengaluru with production partners being Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Bharat Electronics Limited.
- It is being developed to **carry out surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR)** roles and is capable of carrying different combinations of advanced payloads and capable of auto-landing among others.
- It is being designed to **acquire real-time, high-quality pictures** and signal intelligence from fields of concern at medium to long ranges.

- Technologically it matches contemporary UAVs available and is also cheaper than the imported ones.
-

AERO INDIA 2023

Recently, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the 14th edition of Aero India 2023 in Bengaluru.



Aero India 2023:

Aero India is a premier **global aviation trade fair**, which provides an opportunity for the Indian aviation-defence industry, to showcase its products, technologies and solutions to the national decision-makers.

- The Aero India show is held **every 2 years**.
 - This year it is being organised by the Bengaluru-based defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
 - **The theme of 2023:** “The runway to a billion opportunities”.
 - Besides the major entrepreneurs and investors in the defence and aerospace industries, the event will witness the participation of prominent defence think tanks and defence-related bodies from across the world.
-

AADI MAHOTSAV

Prime Minister of India will inaugurate the Aadi Mahotsav festival of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) on February 16 in New Delhi’s Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.



About Aadi Mahotsav:

- It is an annual Tribal Festival that was started in the year 2017.
- It is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)**.

- **Aim:** It aimed to familiarise the people with the rich and diverse craft, and the culture of the tribal communities, in one place.
- **Theme:** “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”

Key facts About TRIFED

- TRIFED came into existence in 1987 under the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act**, of 1984.
- It is a national-level apex organization functioning under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- **Objectives of the Organisation:** Socio-economic development of tribal people in the country by way of marketing development of tribal products.
- The organisation assists tribal people in exploring and creating opportunities to market the developed products in national and international markets on a sustainable basis.
- Under the **TRIBES Indiabrand**, the sourced handcrafted products from the tribal people are sold.

[SUPREME COURT DISMISSES PLEA CHALLENGING DELIMITATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR](#)

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to the Constitution of the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission to readjust constituencies in the new Union Territory.

What is Delimitation?

- According to the Election Commission, the word ‘delimitation’ is defined as “**the act or process of fixing limits/boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body**”.
- In simple terms, the exercise of redrawing the boundaries of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly Constituencies in a region is known as delimitation.

- In this process, the number of seats allocated to a particular state/UT in Lok Sabha or in the Legislative Assembly may vary.
- For example: Delhi, a union territory with legislative assembly, has 7 Lok Sabha constituencies while in the Legislative Assembly it has 70 constituencies.

Why is it needed?

- Delimitation **helps in redrawing the boundaries (based on the data of the last Census) in such a way that the population of all the constituencies, as far as practicable, remain equal throughout the State/UT.**
- It ensures a fair division of geographical areas so that all political parties or candidates contesting elections have a level playing field in terms of a number of voters.

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 82** and **Article 170** of the Constitution empowers the Parliament to readjust the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of States respectively, after every census.
- Accordingly, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Commission Act and an independent high-powered panel known as the **Delimitation Commission** is constituted to carry out the exercise of delimitation.
- **The Parliament has enacted the Delimitation Commission Acts in 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002** for this purpose.
 - There was no Delimitation Commission Act after the 1981 and 1991 census.
 - The present delimitation of constituencies has been done on the basis of 2001 census data under the provisions of Delimitation Commission Act, 2002.
- The next Delimitation Commission will be set up after 2026.
- Further, **Article 330** and **Article 332** of the Constitution provide for re-fixing the number of seats reserved for **Scheduled Castes (SCs)** and **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the states, on the basis of the 2001 census.

About Delimitation Commission:

- The Delimitation Commission is a high-powered committee entrusted with the task of drawing and redrawing of boundaries of different constituencies for state assembly and Lok Sabha election.
 - It is **appointed by the President** and works in collaboration with the Election Commission.
 - **The Commission consists of –**
 - A retired or working Supreme Court Judge (chairperson)
 - Election Commissioner
 - Concerned State Election Commissioners
 - The Commission's orders have the force of law and **cannot be called in question before any court.**
-

OFFICE OF PROFIT CASE AGAINST JHARKHAND CM

Why in news?

- In the alleged office of profit case against Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Governor Ramesh Bais — who was transferred to Maharashtra recently— declined to act.
- He did not make public the Election Commission's opinion on whether Chief Minister Hemant Soren should be disqualified for allegedly allocating a mining lease to himself when he was the mining and forest minister of Jharkhand.

What is 'Office of Profit'?

- The law does not clearly define what constitutes an office of profit but the definition has evolved over the years with interpretations made in various court judgments.
- An office of profit has been interpreted to be a position that brings to the office-holder some financial gain, or advantage, or benefit. The amount of **such profit is immaterial.**
- In 1964, the Supreme Court ruled that the test for determining whether a person holds an office of profit is the test of appointment.
- Several factors are considered in this determination including factors such as –
 - Whether the government is the appointing authority,

- Whether the government has the power to terminate the appointment,
- Whether the government determines the remuneration,
- What is the source of remuneration, and
- The power that comes with the position.

What are the constitutional provisions with respect to Office of Profit?

- The criteria for disqualifications from membership of a state legislature are mentioned in the Article 191 of the Constitution of India.
- Under **Article 191 (1)**, a **person is disqualified** for being chosen as, and for being, a member of legislative assembly or legislative council –
 - If he holds an ‘office of profit’ under the central or state government, other than an office declared not to disqualify its holder by a law passed by the legislature of the state.
- Similarly, under **Article 102(1)** of the Indian Constitution, an MP is barred from holding any office of profit under the central or state government.
- It is also barred in the Representation of People Act, 1951.

Who has the final authority to disqualify an MLA/MLC?

- Under the **Article 192(1)** of the Constitution, it has been mentioned that that if any question arises as to whether or not the member of a house of the legislature of a state has become subject to any of the disqualification criteria mentioned Article 191 (1), the question shall be cited to the Governor of the state for decision.
- **Article 192(2)**: Governor shall act as per the opinion of the Election Commission (EC).
- His decision shall be final and **may not be reviewed by any court of law**

Is the Governor bound to act in accordance with the EC’s opinion?

- Article 192(2) says that the Governor shall act according to the EC’s opinion.
- However, it does not lay down a time frame for the Governor to act.
 - In the present case involving the CM of Jharkhand, in May 2022, the Election Commission sent chief minister Hemant Soren a notice seeking his side of the story.
 - EC had sent its opinion to the Governor in a sealed envelope on August 25.

- Its opinion is not in the public domain and the EC has said its communication with the Governor is privileged.
-

ALL INDIA DOMESTIC WORKERS SURVEY



The Minister of State for Labour and Employment recently informed Lok Sabha that the Labour Bureau has undertaken an All India Domestic Workers Survey.

About All India Domestic Workers Survey:

- This is the **first-ever such survey** in independent India which was initiated in 2021.
- The survey would cover all States and Union Territories, covering 1.5 lakh households in 742 districts.
- **The main objectives of the survey are:**
 - Estimate the number/proportion of domestic workers at the National and State level.
 - Household Estimates of Live-in/Live-out DWs.
 - The average number of DWs engaged by different types of households.

Key facts of the Labour bureau

- Labour Bureau is an attached office under the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, which was set up on 1st October 1946.
 - It is entrusted with the work of **compilation, collection, analysis and dissemination** of statistics on different aspects of labour.
 - It releases **Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers**, Agricultural/Rural Labourers, Retail Price Index of Selected Essential Commodities in Urban Areas etc.
 - **Quick Employment Survey** and Employment-Unemployment survey are also being conducted by Labour Bureau.
-