

**UNCLOS**

**❖ Context**

➤ Government reiterated its support for UNCLOS in the Parliament

**❖ What is UNCLOS?**

➤ Refers to United Nations Conventions on Law of Sea

➤ An international treaty adopted and signed in 1982

➤ 167 countries and EU are currently parties

➤ India one of the founding member

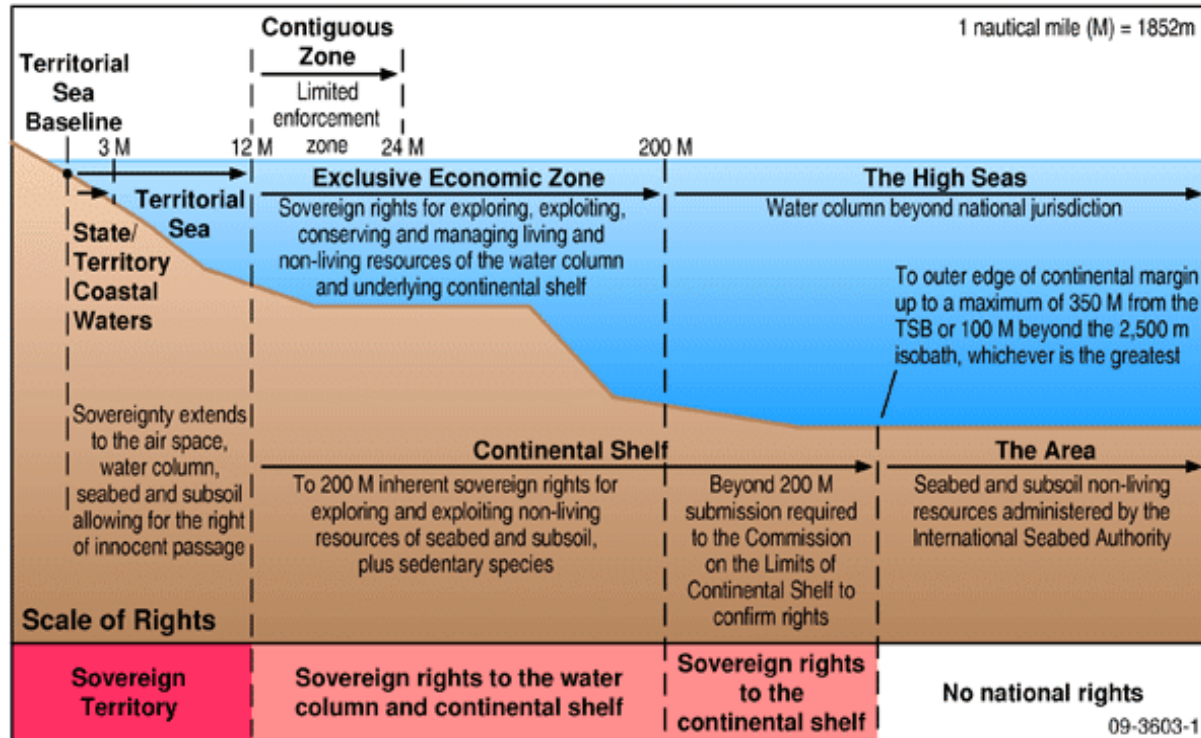
➤ Entered into force in 1994

**➤ Created**

■ **International Tribunal for Law of Sea** (Hamburg, Germany)

■ **International Seabed Authority** - authorize seabed exploration, mining and collect, distribute the seabed mining royalty

■ **Commission on Limits of the Continental Shelf**



➤ USA, Iran are not members

➤ As per Article 5 of the convention, **normal baseline** refers to the low water line along the coast.

➤ International Law of Sea applies over the **High Seas**. All countries may fish here and go to Sea.

**India and Central Asian Nations**

**❖ Context**

➤ Central Asian nations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) leaders have been invited on R-Day

**❖ Significance**

➤ The invitation signals that India wants to increase its link with the region

➤ Already the land connectivity has been difficult due to Pakistan's position

➤ The Republic Day meeting will strengthen India's initiatives through Chabahar and International North South Transport Corridor

**❖ India's engagement with Uzbekistan & other central asian nations**

➤ **India - Central Asian Dialogue** - jointly organized by India and Uzbekistan (first time) in 2019 in Samarkand. 3rd dialogue to be hosted by India in December 2021.

➤ **Central Asian - South Asian conference** - in July - 21 held at Tashkent hosted by Uzbekistan. Attended by India too among other countries.

➤ **Quadrilateral working group on joint use of Chabahar port** - Composed of India, Iran, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan.



**❖ Uzbekistan's Major Interest**

➤ One of the only two doubly landlocked countries in the world (other is Liechtenstein).

➤ Surrounded by additional five landlocked nations - Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

➤ Thus, mutual interest of India and Uzbekistan align towards Central Asian-South Asian connectivity and its related economic and geopolitical benefits.

## Collegium System

### ❖ Context

- Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju told the Rajya Sabha that **there was a call from within the judiciary and parliamentarians to change the collegium system** for appointment of judges.
- He also stated that a **draft memorandum of procedure for bringing transparency and accountability** to the system was submitted by the Government to the Supreme Court, and it was pending.

### ❖ Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court

- **Article 124(2)** - Judges of the SC are **appointed by the President** after consultation with such a number of the Judges of the SC and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary for the purpose.

### Evolution of the System

<u>First Judges Case (1981)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It declared that the “primacy” of the CJIs recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for “cogent reasons”</li> </ul>
<u>Second Judges Case (1993)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”. 3 Member body senior-most judges in the SC</li> </ul>
<u>Third Judges Case (1998)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC on President’s reference (Article 143) expanded the Collegium to a five-member body comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues</li> </ul>

### ❖ Eligibility Criteria

- An individual should be a **citizen of India**
- He or she **should have served as a Judge of a High Court for a period of 5 years** or as an **advocate of the High Court for at least 10 years** or in view of the President a **distinct jurist of the country**.
- According to the judgement of the President, an **eminent legal scholar or expert can also be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court**.

### ❖ Collegium System

- It is the **system of appointment and transfer of judges** that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

- SC collegium is **headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court**.

- Judges of the SC and HC are appointed only through the collegium system and the **government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium**.

- The **collegium sends its final recommendation to the President** of India for approval through the Law minister. The President can either accept it or reject it. In the case it is rejected, the recommendation comes back to the collegium. **If the collegium reiterates its recommendation to the President, then he/she is bound by that recommendation.**

## Supersonic missile assisted torpedo system

### ❖ Context

- **DRDO** developed supersonic missile assisted torpedo system was successfully **launched from Wheeler Island**

### ❖ Key Highlights

- The system is a **next generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system**.
- Designed to **strengthen anti-submarine warfare capability** far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo
- This **canister-based missile system** consists of advanced technologies namely **two stage solid propulsion, electro-mechanical actuators and precision inertial navigation**
- The missile is **launched from ground mobile launcher** and it can cover a range of distance.



### Face to Face Centres



## Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0

### ❖ Context

➤ The major focus of **SBM (U) 2.0** and **AMRUT 2.0** is to make the cities garbage free and water secure during the mission period of five years (2021-2026)

### The highlights of SBM (U) 2.0

- All households and premises segregate their waste into “wet waste” and “dry waste”
- **100% door to door collection** of segregated waste from each household/ premise;
- **100% scientific management** of all fractions of waste, including safe disposal in scientific landfills;
- All legacy **dumpsites remediated**;
- All used water including faecal sludge, is **safely contained, transported, processed and disposed** so that no untreated faecal sludge and used water pollutes the ground or water bodies, in cities with less than one lakh population;
- **Phased reduction** in use of single use **plastic**.

### The highlights of AMRUT 2.0

- **Universal coverage of water supply** from 500 cities to about 4,800 statutory towns.
- Focus on making the cities ‘self-reliant’ and ‘water secure’.
- **Universal coverage of sewerage and septage management** in 500 AMRUT cities.
- **Target to provide 2.68 crore drinking water tap connections and 2.64 crore sewer connections.**
- Focus on **financial sustainability of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** through enhanced credit worthiness and market borrowing.
- ‘**Pey Jal Survekshan**’ will be undertaken in cities to promote healthy competition among them and function as a monitoring tool and Mission accelerator.
- **Technology sub-Mission under AMRUT 2.0** will help in identifying proven and potential global technologies in water sectors
- **Entrepreneurship/ start-ups involved** in low-cost indigenous equipment and processes will be encouraged.

## News in Between The Lines

### Great Indian Bustard

#### ❖ Context

- Govt urges SC to modify order on underground cables in the habitat of the Great Indian Bustard.
- The Government said that the area falling in Rajasthan and Gujarat contains a large proportion of the country’s total solar and wind energy potential and the process will escalate the cost of renewable energy production and hurt India’s renewable energy cause.



#### ❖ About GIB

- State bird of Rajasthan and it comes in the critically endangered category of IUCN and Appendix 1 of CITES
- Flagship grassland species, representing the health of the grassland ecology.
- Mostly confined to Rajasthan and Gujarat
- GIB is under constant threats due to collision/electrocution with power transmission lines, hunting, habitat loss and alteration as a result of widespread agricultural expansion, etc

### National Helpline Against Atrocities on SCs/STs Launched

#### Context

- Recently, Govt launched a National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA) today

#### ❖ Key Highlights

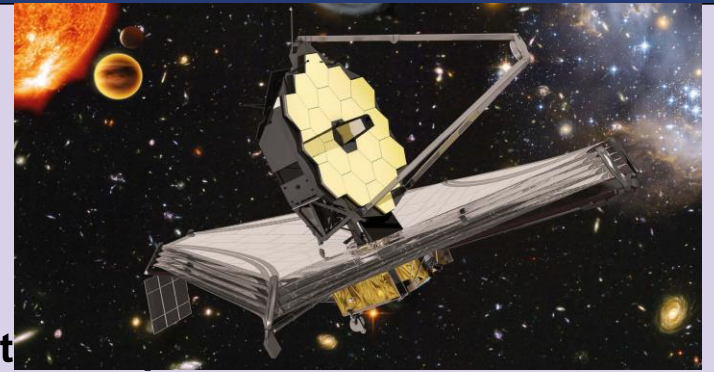
- The Helpline number will ensure proper implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) [PoA] Act, 1989
- Toll free service and it can be accessed by making a voice call /VOIP on "14566"
- Tracking system: Status of the Grievance can be tracked by complainant/NGOs Online



### Face to Face Centres



**James Webb Space Telescope**



❖ **Context**

➤ James Webb Space Telescope launches later this month

❖ **Key Highlights**

- Successor of the Hubble Telescope
- The telescope has been developed under an international partnership between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA)
- The telescope will study the atmospheres of a wide diversity of exoplanets
- It will also search for atmospheres similar to Earth's, and for the signatures of key substances such as methane, water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and complex organic molecules, in hopes of finding the building blocks of life.
- It is the most powerful infrared telescope of NASA
- It will be launched on an Ariane 5 ECA rocket from French Guiana in South America.

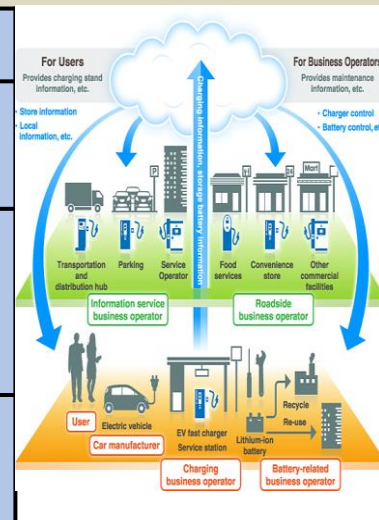
**EV charging stations infrastructure**

❖ **Context**

- Government proposes all highway wayside amenities to have EV charging stations
- As per Government's reply to Rajya Sabha, NHAI has already awarded 39 such facilities

❖ **Role of different Ministries**

Ministry	Deals with
Ministry of Heavy Industries	building and operation of charging infrastructure under FAME-II India scheme
Ministry of Power	publishing of guidelines and standards for the charging infrastructure related to density and distance between charging points
Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways	provision of space near toll plazas for installation of charging stations



❖ **Edible Oil**

❖ **Context**

- Vegetable Oil import rose by 6% in November 2021
- Vegetable oil includes both edible and non-edible oil.

❖ **India's import dependence**

- India meets 70% of the domestic demand of edible oil through imports. Major Source countries
- In addition to the above, Cotton seeds and Rice bran are other sources of edible oil. Rice bran oil is known to reduce the risk of heart diseases and type 2 diabetes

❖ **Retail & Wholesale Inflation**

❖ **Context**

- Retail inflation rose by 4.9 % in November 2021. Wholesale inflation rose by 14.23% in November 2021, highest in 16 years
- ❖ **What does this wide gap between the two mean?**
  - It shows the pressure of price rise on input side i.e. cost push inflation.

Retail Inflation	Wholesale Inflation
Measured by All India Consumer Price Index	Measured by Wholesale Price Index
Released by National Statistical office, under MoSPI	Released by Office of Economic Adviser, under Min of Commerce
Base year -2012	Base year -2011-12

**Face to Face Centres**