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Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)

Union Home Minister launched the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS).

The Portal

- The Ministry of Cooperation has taken several initiatives to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country.
- In this direction, the office of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies is being computerized to promote ease of doing business in the cooperative sector.
- The main objectives of computerization of the Central Registrar's Office are:
 1. Completely paperless application and processing
 2. Automatic compliance with Multi State Co-operative Societies Act (MSCS Act) and Rules through software
 3. Enhancing Ease of Doing Business, Digital communication, Transparent processing
 4. Improved Analytics and MIS (Management Information Systems)
- The following modules will be included in the Central Registrar Portal:
 - Registration; Amendment of Bye Laws, Annual Return Filing, Appeal, Audit, Inspection, Inquiry, Arbitration, Winding Up & Liquidation, Ombudsman, Election
- The new portal will also incorporate the recently passed amendments to the MSCS Act, 2002 and its rules.

CRCS

- As per the Constitution, the Cooperative societies with objects confined to one State only are governed by the Cooperative laws of the respective State Government.
- The cooperative societies with objects confined to more than one State are governed by the central law, namely, 'the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002 (Act 39 of 2002).
- It is a statutory body responsible for registration and other processes of the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS).

References

1. [PIB - Digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies \(CRCS\)](#)
2. [Cooperation.gov - CRCS](#)

Justice Rohini Panel

The Justice G. Rohini-led Commission on the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes groups, submitted its report to the President of India.

- It was formed in October 2017 and was initially asked to finish its report in 12 weeks.
- The commission was formed by the President to examine the question of sub-categorizing the over 2600 caste groups listed in the Central OBC list.
- The Commission was tasked with first examining how much of 27% reservation & other government benefits meant for OBCs was dominated by which caste groups.
- The Commission had arrived at the conclusion that a small number of caste groups among all OBC groups, were dominating reservation and other government benefits.
- The Commission went on to explore ways of sub-categorizing these existing OBC groups in order to make sure benefits can be redistributed equitably.
- This involved breaking up all OBC caste groups into further categories based on how dominant the communities have been in availing government benefits meant for OBCs.

Findings

- The findings are expected to throw up exact numbers on OBC communities that have availed benefits since reservation for them began in 1992.
- This data set will for the first time show the changes, if any, in the socio-economic status of OBC communities that have historically been able to avail benefits.

References

1. [The Hindu - Why are Justice Rohini panel's findings important?](#)
2. [The Hindu - Justice Rohini panel on OBC sub-categorization submits report](#)

Kohelet Policy Forum

Israelis are out on the streets over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plans.

- It is a Jerusalem-based, non-partisan think-tank founded in 2012.
- It is dedicated to promoting the values of individual liberty and free-markets, Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, and representative democracy.
- Moshe shifted from New York to the West Bank.
- **Objective** - To secure Israel's future as the nation-state of the Jewish people and to broaden individual liberty and free market principles in Israel.
- Kohelet was the key driver behind the Nation-State law passed in 2018, which, for the first time, specifies Israel to be a nation-state of the Jewish people where Jews alone have the right to self-determination.

References

1. [The Hindu - Kohelet Policy Forum](#)
2. [Kohelet - Kohelet Policy Forum](#)

Superconducting materials

A team of scientists claimed to develop a material (LK-99) that could act as a superconductor at room temperature.

Superconductors

- A superconductor is a material that attains superconductivity, a state of matter with no electrical resistance.
- In a superconductor, an electric current can persist indefinitely.
- Unlike regular conductors whose resistance gradually reduces, the superconductor's resistance drops to zero below a fixed temperature, which is the critical temperature.
- At this temperature, a superconductor can conduct electricity with no resistance, which means no heat, sound, or other forms of energy would be discharged from the material when it reaches the critical temperature (T_c).

Superconducting materials

- Superconducting materials can conduct electricity without losing energy in the form of heat, which happens as electrons move through a material and interact with atoms.
- Superconductors like the magnets used in MRI machines, require ultra-cold temperatures to operate.
- A superconducting material will repel magnetic fields and a telltale sign of one is it will float above a magnet and stay suspended in place, even when it is rotated.
- When a material becomes a superconductor, the superconducting state will induce four changes in the material.
- **Electronic effect** - The material will transport an electric current with zero resistance.
- This is hard to check when the sample of the material is very small, and requires sophisticated equipment.
- **Magnetic effect** - A type I superconductor will expel a magnetic field from its body as long as the field strength is below a critical value.

Type I Superconductor is a material that, in the right conditions, becomes a superconductor throughout its bulk.

- **Thermodynamic effect** - The electronic specific heat changes drastically at the superconducting transition temperature.
- The specific heat is the heat required to increase the temperature of the electrons in the material by 1 degree Celsius.
- **Spectroscopic effect** - The electrons in the material are forbidden from attaining certain energy levels, even if they could when the material was not a superconductor.

References

1. [The Hindu - How to check if a material is a superconductor?](#)
2. [The Hindu Business Line - Hope, skepticism around LK-99](#)

Shaligrams

Shaligrams, worshipped by Hindus and Buddhists for over 2,000 years, are becoming rarer because of climate change.

- For more than 2,000 years, Hinduism, Buddhism and the shamanic Himalayan religion of Bon have venerated Shaligrams.
- They are ancient fossils of ammonites, a class of extinct sea creatures related to modern squids.
- Originating from a single remote region in northern Nepal in the Kali Gandaki River Valley of Mustang.
- Shaligram stones are viewed primarily as manifestations of the Hindu god Vishnu.
- Because they are not human-made, but created by the landscape, they are believed to have an intrinsic consciousness of their own.
- As a result, Shaligrams are kept in homes and in temples, where they are treated as both living gods and active community members.

Climate change and Shaligrams

- Climate change, faster glacial melting, and gravel mining in the Kali Gandaki are changing the course of the river, which means fewer Shaligrams are appearing each year.
- This is mainly because the Kali Gandaki is fed by meltwater from the Southern Tibetan Plateau.
- However, with the glacier disappearing, the river is becoming smaller and shifting away from the fossil beds that contain the ammonites needed to become Shaligrams.



References

1. [Down To Earth - Shaligrams are becoming rarer because of climate change](#)
2. [The Conservation - Shaligrams are becoming rarer because of climate change](#)