UPSC Daily Current Affairs| Prelim Bits 10-02-2025

Potash

Why in news?

Recently potash reserve has been discovered in the Punjab region which is significant to reduce India's import dependence and bolster the domestic fertilizer industry.

- **Potash** – Refers to potassium-bearing minerals that are primarily used in fertilisers.
- **N-P-K** – Over 90% of potash is used as fertilizer and it is one of the three primary agricultural nutrients (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium or N-P-K).
- **Indian Minerals Yearbook for 2021** – According to it, Potash can be used on all plants to boost plant health and nutrition as well as to increase crop yields.
- **Different forms of it** – While all potash fertilizers contain potassium there are a number of different forms in which it exists.
- **Sulphate of Potash (SOP)** – Among these forms is Sulphate of Potash (SOP), a premium potash fertilizer that is free of chloride (a compound considered harmful to plants).
- SOP is used primarily on high-value crops, usually leafy plants, fruits and vegetables.
- **Muriate of Potash (MOP)** – Contains some chloride. MOP is commonly used on carbohydrate-type crops, such as wheat.
- **Potash reserves in India** – Punjab is now the second state after Rajasthan to have significant potash reserves.
- **The three mining blocks** – With potash reserves are:
    - Kabarwala (Muktsar Sahib),
    - Sherewala and Ramsara (Fazilka)
    - Shergarh and Dalmir Khera (Fazilka)
- **In Rajasthan** – Potash deposits were mainly found in the *north-western Nagaur-Ganganagar basin*, including the Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts that border Fazilka and Muktsar.
- **Auctioning rights & royalties** – Although the central government has

the auctioning rights for minerals, states receive royalties upon their extraction.

Reference

The indian express - Potash

President's Rule

Why in news?

President rule is likely to be in Manipur, since Biren Singh, Chief Minister of Manipur has resigned from the post.

- The President's Rule is crucial for maintaining the federal structure of the Indian polity and ensuring that governance remains stable even in crises.
- **Article 355** – Imposes a duty on the centre to ensure that the government of every state is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- **Articles 355 to 357 in Part XVIII** – Along with Article 365 in Part XIX of the Indian Constitution, pertain to the President's Rule.
- Grounds of imposition – ***Article 356*** empowers the President to issue a proclamation if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.
- ***Article 365*** says that whenever a state fails to comply with or to give effect to any direction from the centre, the president rule can be imposed.
- **Parliamentary approval** – A proclamation imposing president's rule must be approved by both the houses of parliament ***within two months*** from the date of its issue.
- However, if the proclamation of President's rule is issued at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of *two months without approving the proclamation*.
    - Then the proclamation survives until *30 days* from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution, provided that the Rajya Sabha approves it in the meantime.
- **Scope of judicial review** – 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the President is not beyond judicial review.

Reference

[The Indian express - President's Rule]

Autonomous District Council

Why in news?

The elections to the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council are scheduled for February 21.

- **The Autonomous District Council** – Have real ***power to make laws***, possibility on the various legislative subjects, receiving grants-in-aid from the *Consolidated Fund of India*.
- The mandate towards devolution, de-concentration and divestment determines the protection of their customs, better economic development and most importantly ethnic security.
- **Sixth schedule** – Of the Constitution includes ***10 autonomous district councils in 4 states***. These are:
  - **Assam** – Bodoland Territorial Council, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Dima Hasao Autonomous District Council.
  - **Meghalaya** – Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.
  - **Tripura** – Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council.
  - **Mizoram** – Chakma Autonomous District Council, Lai Autonomous District Council, Mara Autonomous District Council.
- **Major Issues** – Granting special provisions to certain minority tribal groups have led to further demands by other groups for such provisions under the 6^{th} schedule.
  - This has created disparity among the people and resulted in the rise of conflict between various groups.
- In terms of financial autonomy, the members across the ADCs in North Eastern states share the same view that the ADCs are at the mercy of the state governments.
- There exists a huge gap between the approved budget and the funds received from the State Government which has had a direct impact on the development of these tribal communities.
- They are also dependent upon state governments for decisions regarding undertaking of developmental activities in their region.

Reference

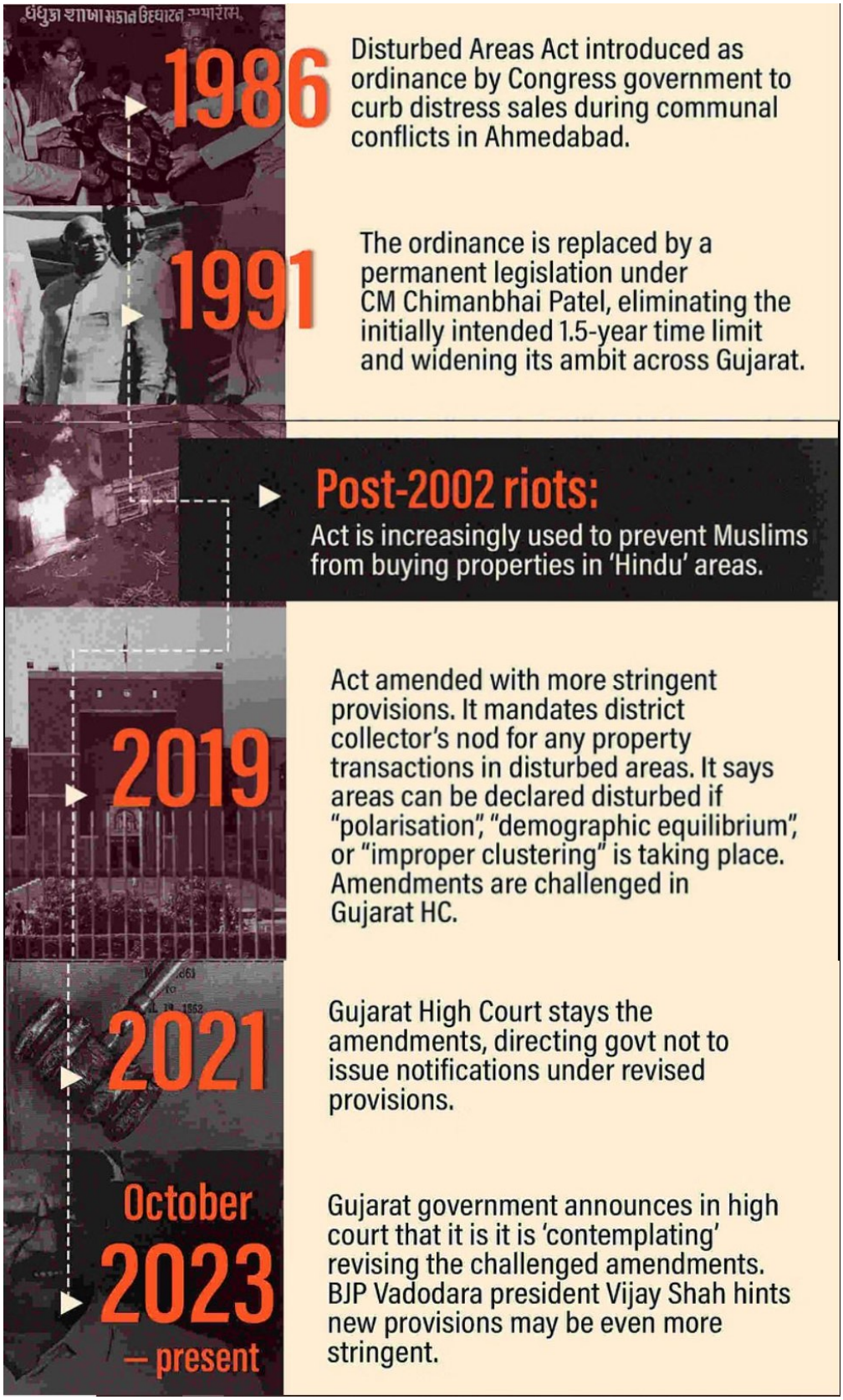
The Hindu - Autonomous District Council

Disturbed Areas Act, 1986

Why in news?

Under the provisions of the Disturbed Areas Act, Surat property sealed over sale to Muslim woman recently.

- The Disturbed Areas Act was enacted in the year 1986 and replaced with a new Act in 1991.
- **Act's full name** – The Gujarat Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Act.
- **Riot-prone areas** – It empowers the government to declare riot-prone areas as 'disturbed'.
- **Collectors Consent** – Property sale or transfer in areas where the Act has been imposed *requires additional permission from the collector's office* affirming free consent.
- **Distress sales** – The motive of the Act was to *prevent distress sales*. It was also to prevent house owners of one community from selling to another in case of social distress.
- **Areas are covered under the Act** – Several areas in the districts of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Anand, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Panchmahals and others remain under the purview of the Act, with newer areas being added.
- The Gujarat government last month extended the application of the Act in existing areas of Anand district for another five years.
- **Amendments in 2020** – Gave more power to Collector, government.
- In 2020, the Gujarat government amended certain sections of the Act, giving the Collector more powers.
- Under the Disturbed Areas Act, the district Collector notifies a particular area of a city or town as 'disturbed'.
    - After this, the transfer of immovable property in those areas requires express permission of the Collector.
- The amendments raised the imprisonment for violation from six months to between three and five years.



References

1. Indian express - Disturbed Areas Act, 1986
2. The Print - Disturbed Areas Act, 1986

One Liners 10-02-2025

Polity & Governance

The Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (PM-NAPS)

• **Launched in** – *2016* under the umbrella scheme ***Skill India Programme (SIP).***
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
• **Aim** – To promote apprenticeship training in the country, by providing partial stipend support to the apprentices engaged under the *Apprentice Act, 1961*.
• **Eligibility -** *14-35 years*
• To support both apprentices and establishments in India, 25% of the stipend, ***up to Rs.1, 500 per month*** per apprentice, will be provided through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during the training period.

Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)

• It originally launched as *Shramik Vidyapeeth (SVP)* in 1967.
• **Umbrella scheme** – Skill India Programme (SIP).
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
• **Aim -** Community-centric skilling initiative designed to make vocational training accessible, flexible, and inclusive, particularly for women, rural youth, and economically disadvantaged groups.
• **Key Initiatives -** PM JANMAN, Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS),
• **Targeted beneficiaries** – Non-literates, neo-literates, individuals with rudimentary education, and school dropouts up to class 12th, aged *15-45 years*.

Yuva Sahakar – Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

• **Launched in** – *2018*.
• **Implemented by** – National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Cooperation.
• **Aim** – To *encourage newly formed cooperative societies* with new and/or innovative ideas and young entrepreneur cooperative societies which are in operation for a *minimum of 3 months*.
• **Loan** – Long-term loan (up to 5 years).
• **Interest subvention** – 2% on rate of interest.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

• **Launched in** – *2020* as a ***central sector scheme.***
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
• **Merged with** – Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF).
• **Aim** – To support investments in infrastructure related to animal husbandry, including dairy, meat processing, and animal feed plants.
• **Eligible entities –** Individuals, Private companies, cooperatives, section 8 companies, MSMEs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and Dairy Cooperatives & dairy farmers.
• **Loan** – Up to 90% of the estimated/ actual project cost.
• **Timeline** – *6 years*.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

• **Launched in** – *2018*.
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
• **Implementing agency** – National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).
• **Aim** - It helps in the creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in ***marine and inland fisheries*** sectors.
• **Nodal Loaning Entities**
  - **NABARD** - State/UT government projects.
  - **National Cooperative Development Corporation** – Cooperative Sector either through State Governments/UTs or directly to Eligible Cooperative Societies & Federations
  - **Scheduled Banks** – All the Private Beneficiaries/ Private Entrepreneurs.
• **Loan** – Up to **80%** of the estimated/ actual project cost.
• **Interest Subvention-** Up to **3%** per annum for development of identified fisheries- based infrastructure facilities.
• **Repayment period - 12 years** inclusive of moratorium of 2 years on repayment of principal.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

• **Launched in** – *2024* as a ***central sector sub-scheme.***
• **Umbrella scheme** – Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying.
• **Aim** – To formalize the fisheries sector and to support fisheries micro and small enterprises.
• **Timeline** – *4 years* (2023-2027).

GLOF Mitigation Project

• **GLOF-NGRMP** – National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood-Risk Mitigation Project.
• **Launched in** – *2025*.
• **Funding** -National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).
• **Aim** – To reduce the risks associated with glacial lake outburst floods, particularly in regions that are highly susceptible to such natural disasters.
• **Implemented states** – Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, **Sikkim** and Uttarakhand.
• **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) –** It is a sudden release of water from a glacial lake due to the failure of a natural dam, resulting in flooding.

CRIDA Mission

• **CRIDA** – Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture.
• **Launched by –** Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
• **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
• **Aim** – To conduct essential and strategic research on dryland agriculture.

Agriculture

Pisciculture

• **Pisciculture** – It is the *commercial breeding of fish*.
• It is a type of aquaculture in which aquatic creatures, including fish, crabs, and molluscs, are carefully cultivated and harvested.
• It can be done in either a natural or a simulated natural context.
• **Process** – It is the process of breeding, producing, and shipping fish for both home and commercial purposes.
• It is also known as *aquaculture, fish farming, or mariculture*.

Security

TROPEX-25

• **TROPEX-25** – Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise, 2025.
• It is an operational level exercise conducted *biennially* with participation by *all operational Indian Naval units*.
• **Substantial participation** – Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets.
• **Conducted in** – Indian Ocean Region.
• **Aim** – Validate Indian Navy's core warfighting skills, ensuring a synchronised, integrated response to preserve and protect national maritime security interests.
  - Against conventional, asymmetric as well as hybrid threats.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering