

## 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

## 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<sup>th</sup> 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

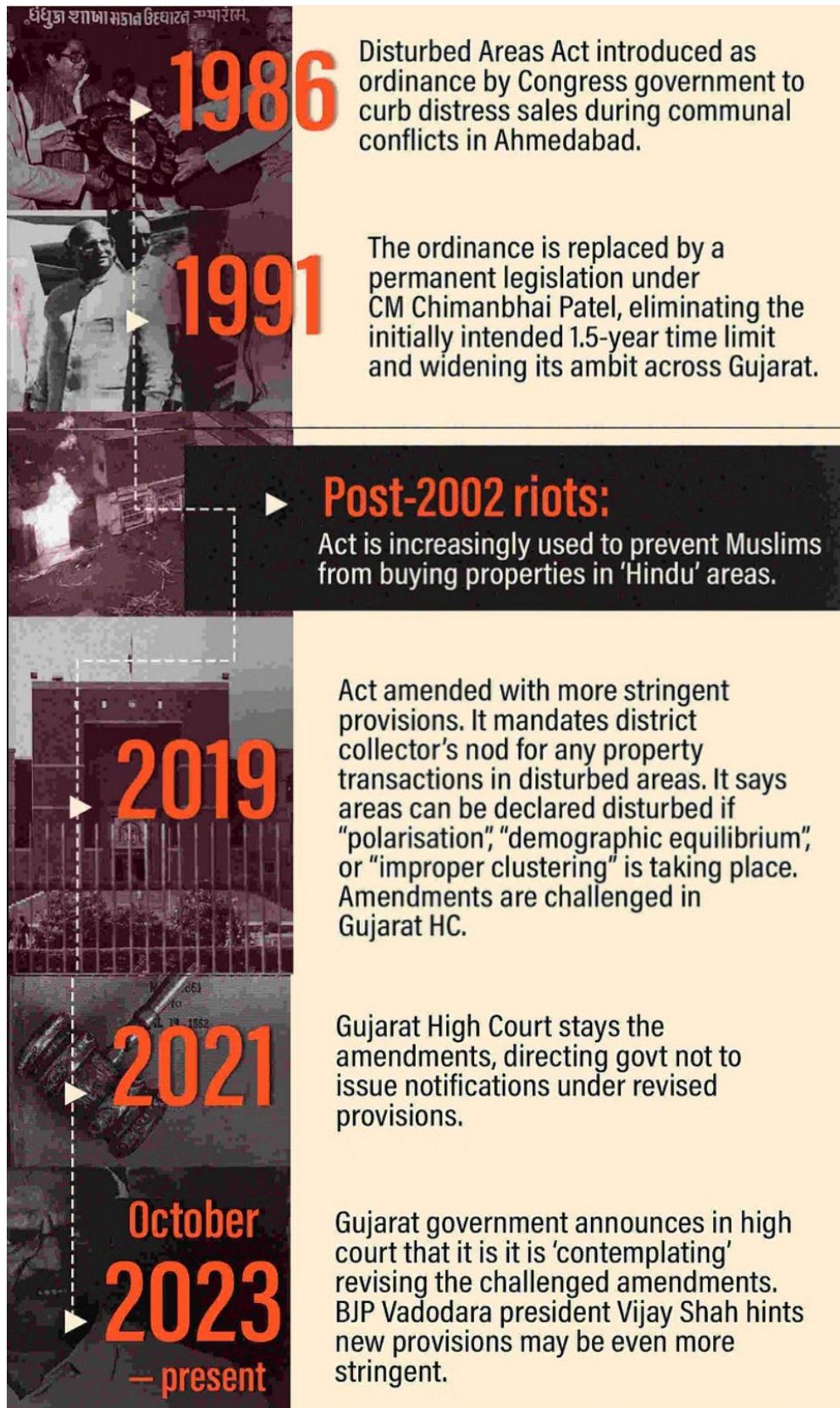
### Disturbed Areas Act, 1986

#### 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](#)

## **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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.