

NEWS TODAY

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES TRIBUNALS REFORMS (RATIONALISATION AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) BILL, 2021

- It replaces Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021.

- **Highlights of the Bill**

- The **Bill dissolves certain existing appellate bodies and transfers their functions** to other existing judicial bodies.
 - These include the **Cinematograph Act, the Copyright Act, the Customs Act, the Patents Act, the Airport Authority of India Act, the Trade Marks Act and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act.**
- The **term of office for the Chairperson and members of Tribunals will be four years**, subject to an upper age limit of seventy years for the Chairperson, and sixty-seven years for other members.
 - Earlier, SC struck down Section 184 of the Finance Act 2017, which prescribed tenure of four years for members, as it **was contrary to the principles of separation of powers, independence of judiciary and Article 14 of the Constitution of India.**
- The **Bill specifies that a person should be at least 50 years of age to be eligible** for appointment as a Chairperson or member.



- **Need for Rationalisation**

- The government **believes the tribunals have not necessarily led to faster justice delivery** and many tribunals only add to another additional layer of litigation.
- Under **Finance Act 2017, seven tribunals were abolished or merged** based on functional similarity.

PAKISTAN FINALISES BILL TO GRANT PROVISIONAL PROVINCIAL STATUS TO GILGIT-BALTISTAN (GB)

- GB was a part of erstwhile **princely state of Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - It has **been under Pakistan's control since November 4, 1947**, following invasion of Kashmir by tribal militias and Pakistan army.
 - It was renamed as '**Northern Areas of Pakistan**' and put under direct control of Pakistan federal government through **Karachi Agreement, 1949**.
- **The GB Order, 2018** was aimed at incorporating GB as its **fifth province of Pakistan**.
 - Baluchistan, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh are other four provinces.
- India maintains that **Pakistan has no locus standi on territories illegally and forcibly occupied by it**.
 - **India has asserted that the region is an integral part of India** "by virtue of the legal, complete and irrevocable accession of Jammu & Kashmir to the Union of India in 1947".

- **Significance of GB**

- GB lies at the intersection of Indian Subcontinent, Central Asia and China.
- Important glaciers like **Siachen Glacier** are located in GB.
- Before entering Pakistan, **Indus River passes through GB**.
 - **Hydro-electric potential** of Indus River makes it vital for energy security as well.
- **China Pakistan Economic Corridor** is passing through GB

Gilgit-Baltistan key facts

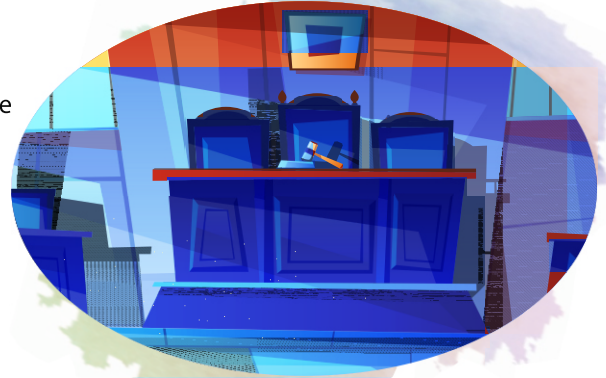
- **AREA**
72,971 sq km
- **POPULATION**
2m+ (2013),
Shia majority,
14% urban
- **LITERACY RATE:**
Roughly 72%
- **REVENUE EARNER:**
Tourism, trekking
and mountaineering



At present, region has little say in its own affairs, directly ruled from Islamabad despite a pretense of autonomy

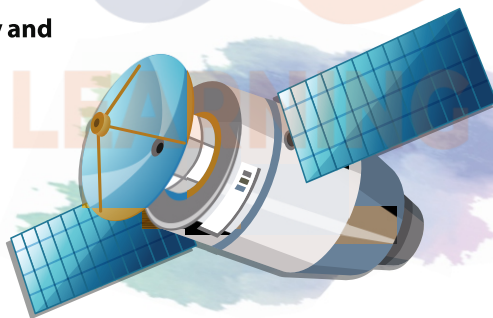
As a 'province', Pak can claim G-B will have greater legislative powers and control over its revenues

- The MLC was established in 1921 which **continued to function as the legislative assembly of the then Madras state post 1947 and thereafter Tamil Nadu from 1969.**
- It was **set up under the Government of India Act 1919.**
 - The **proportion of elected members was increased to over 70%.**
 - The **concept of dyarchy came into being** which divided the administrative subjects into Central and Provincial Lists.
 - It was then that the **office of the Chief Minister, also called Premier, got instituted.**
 - One seat in each territorial plural-member constituency (28 in all) was reserved for non-Brahmins.
- Justice Party formed the government after the **first election with just 3% of the population as electors (only men).**
 - **Congress boycotted this election.**
- The MLC's centenary celebration is historic as the House had **passed several landmark legislations like**
 - **Voting rights for women in 1921.**
 - Muthulakshmi Reddy was the first woman member of the Council.
 - Hindu Religious Endowment Act (1926).
 - Abolition of the Devadasi system.
 - **Issuing free pattas to the poor for housing sites.**



INDIAN SATELLITE NAVIGATION POLICY – 2021 (SATNAV POLICY – 2021)

- In order **to achieve the goal of self-reliance in India's satellite-based navigation and augmentation services sector**, a comprehensive SATNAV Policy has been proposed by the Department of Space (DOS).
- Satellite based Navigation is a **constellation of navigation satellites with global or regional coverage** and its supporting infrastructure designed to provide all weather, passive, three-dimensional position, velocity and timing data.
- **Major Objectives of the Policy**
 - Ensuring **guaranteed and continuous availability of free-to-air navigation signals** for civilian uses and **secured navigation signals for strategic uses.**
 - Working towards **compatibility and interoperability** of Indian satellite navigation and augmentation signals **with other Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and Satellite based Augmentation Systems (SBAS) signals.**
 - To provide **Position, Velocity and Time (PVT) based services.**
 - **To continue and upgrade Space based navigation services (SBNS) and SBAS** as part of government's Atmanirbhar Bharat.
 - Secured SBNS exclusively for the Indian strategic community is provided through **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).**
 - ⇒ NavIC or **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** is an **independent regional navigation satellite system** developed by ISRO.
 - SBAS services via **GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN)** for the Indian airspace.
 - ⇒ GAGAN is **jointly developed by ISRO and AAI to provide navigational services and position accuracy** for Aviation.





PREVENTIVE DETENTION CAN'T BE INVOKED OVER LAW & ORDER FEARS, SAYS SUPREME COURT

- In **Banka Sneha Sheela vs State of Telangana case**, Supreme Court ruled that the **provision for preventive detention cannot be invoked over apprehension of law-and-order problems** but in cases where public order is directly affected.
 - It observed that **"law and order" comprehends disorders of less gravity than those affecting "public order", which affects the larger public.**
 - Also, preventive detention must **fall within Article 21 (due process of law) read with Article 22 (safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention).**
- **About Preventive detention**
 - Preventive detention is action to detain a person, taken on grounds of suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned **{Section 151 of The Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC)}**.
 - **Article 22** of the Indian Constitution **provides protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.**
 - This article confers certain rights to the individual such as the knowledge of ground of arrest, right to consult and to be defended by a legal practitioner, etc.
 - However, these **rights aren't granted to an alien or a person detained under the preventive detention laws.**

EXPERTS RAISE CONCERNS OVER MANDATORY FOOD FORTIFICATION

- In a pushback against **Centre's plan to mandatorily fortify rice and edible oils** with vitamins and mineral, **experts have warned of adverse impacts on health and livelihoods** citing inconclusive evidence in favour of fortification.
 - **Food fortification** is the practice of **adding vitamins and minerals to commonly consumed foods during processing** to increase their nutritional value and counter hidden hunger.
 - **Hidden hunger is a deficiency of one or more micronutrients** such as iron, folate, zinc, vitamin A, vitamin B12 and vitamin D.
- **Key issues highlighted**
 - Studies relied on by FSSAI to promote fortification are **sponsored by food companies who would benefit from it, leading to conflicts of interest.**
 - **Nutrients don't work in isolation** but need each other for optimal absorption.
 - Adding one or two synthetic chemical vitamins and minerals in food of **undernourished populations can lead to toxicity.**
 - **Mandatory fortification would harm the vast informal economy** of Indian farmers and food processors.
- They suggested that **dietary diversity and higher protein consumption** are keys to solve hidden hunger in India.
 - In India, over **80 per cent adolescents suffer from hidden hunger**, according to UNICEF's 2019 report.

ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Floating rate funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Floating rate funds buy bonds whose interest rates change according to the changing rates in the economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ This feature is thus supposed to insulate them from losses because of rate hikes and can even increase their returns as rates rise. ● According to Securities and Exchange Board of India rules, 65% of the corpus of floating rate funds has to be invested in floating rate instruments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Floating rate funds have seen huge inflows in recent months as investors expect interest rates to rise.
 <p>Talisman Sabre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is the largest bilateral combined training activity between Australia Defence Force (ADF) and United States (US) military. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is a biennial exercise incorporating activities on land, sea and air. ● After India invited Australia to Malabar exercise in 2020, Australia has extended India invitation for Talisman Sabre, 2023 to further consolidate the inter-operatibility of their navies in Indo-Pacific.
 <p>New theory on how Earth got its oxygen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● About 2.4 billion years ago oxygen concentration in the air was negligible but in only about 400 million years Earth's atmosphere went to one-tenth the amount of oxygen we have now. ● According to a new theory this happened because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Earth's rotation slowed down because of complicated physics of tidal friction and interaction with the moon. ➢ This resulted in days getting longer giving more time to cyanobacteria to produce oxygen. ● The idea is being considered impressive as it doesn't require any big biological changes in bacteria or the world's oceans.
 <p>National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCSM has taken up projects for setting up of new science centres under Scheme for Promotion of Culture of Science (SPoCS). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Currently, 25 Science Museums/Science Centres in the country are functioning under the administrative control of NCSM. ● NCSM is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Its objective is to portray the growth of science and technology and their applications in industry and human welfare, with a view to develop scientific attitude and temper and to create, inculcate and sustain a general awareness amongst the people.
 <p>Global Positioning System (GPS) clocks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indian Railways will provide GPS clocks (replacing the analog mechanism) for control offices to enable section controllers coordinate with station masters, loco pilots and other staff directly involved in train operations and avoid accidents. ● GPS Clock is a satellite system that uses atomic clocks to provide everyone on Earth with low-cost access to international atomic time standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Atomic clock, type of clock that uses certain resonance frequencies of atoms (usually cesium or rubidium) to keep time with extreme accuracy.



Places in news

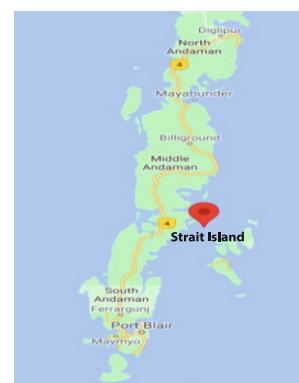
• **Gogra and Hot Springs, Ladakh.**

- The **12th round of Corps Commanders Meeting** between India and China was '**constructive**' as per a joint statement issued.
- However the **two sides have not reached an agreement for disengagement at Gogra and Hot Springs** in Eastern Ladakh.
- **Hot spring, also called thermal spring**, is a spring of naturally hot water, typically heated by subterranean volcanic activity.



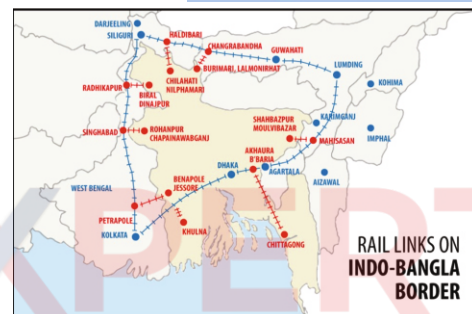
• **Strait Island**

- Few **Great Andamanese (GA) tribes have been shifted to their tribal settlements at Strait Island** to ensure their safety against the **COVID-19** pandemic.
- The **island is a tribal reserve** for the GA where entry of outsiders is prohibited.
- GA is a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- The **Andamans is home to five PVTGs**- Sentinelese, Jarawa, Great Andamanese, Onge and Shompen.



• **Haldibari (India) – Chilahati (Bangladesh) rail link**

- With the **joint efforts of the railways of both countries, India and Bangladesh have started regular operation of freight trains** through the restored Haldibari - Chilahati Rail Route.
- The rail link between India and the then East Pakistan was **operational till the war of 1965**.
- The rail link was **reopened** by both the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh in **2020 for movement of passenger and goods traffic**.



Personality in news

• **Pingali Venkayya** (2 August 1876- 4 July 1963)

- He was **Indian freedom fighter who designed the Indian National Flag**.
- In 1916, he had published a booklet titled "**A National Flag for India**".
- In 1921, acknowledging the need for a national flag, **Gandhi asked Venkayya to design it**.
- Initially, **he presented a green and red flag, but it later evolved with a spinning wheel at the centre and a third colour-white**.
- **The flag was** officially adopted by the Indian National Congress in 1931.