

19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2024

## 1. Simultaneous Polls Roadmap GS 2 (Governance)

### • Why in News:

- The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local government bodies, as recommended by the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election, led by former President Ram Nath Kovind.
- As per the govt, implementation will occur in two phases: first, aligning Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, and second, holding local body elections within 100 days of the first phase.

### • History of Elections in India

- **Era of simultaneous elections**
  - The first general elections of free India held simultaneously to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the States in 1951.
  - The next three cycles of elections also witnessed concurrent Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections barring a few stray cases like:
    - Kerala where a mid-term election was held in 1960 on the pre-mature dissolution of the Assembly, and
    - in Nagaland and Pondicherry where the Assembly was created only after the 1962 general elections.
  - The last occasion when we had near-simultaneous elections was in 1967.
- **Beginning of the end of simultaneous elections**
  - The fourth Lok Sabha constituted in 1967 was dissolved prematurely in 1971. This was the beginning of the end of simultaneous elections.
  - Extension of the term of Lok Sabha during the National Emergency declared in 1975 and the dissolution of Assemblies of some States after the 1977 Lok Sabha election further disturbed the cycle of concurrent elections.
- **Current status**
  - After the two pre-mature dissolutions of the Lok Sabha in 1998 and 1999, only four State Assemblies have been going to polls along with the Lok Sabha elections in the last two decades.
  - We now have at least two rounds of Assembly general elections every year.
- **Roadmap for Simultaneous Polls**
- **Steps needed after the approval from the Union Cabinet**
  - The One Nation, One Election project requires two Constitutional Amendment Bills to be passed by Parliament, needing broad agreement across various parties.
  - To build consensus, the government may refer the bills to a parliamentary committee, which includes opposition members.

## Simultaneous polls roadmap

How will the simultaneous election project, cleared by the Union Cabinet, be implemented? What steps have been proposed by the Kovind panel? What constitutional amendments will be required?

AJOY SHINHA KAPURAM & ARJUN SENGUPTA  
NEW DELHI, 19 SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday set the ball rolling on holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, and local government bodies, clearing the proposal of the High Level Committee on One Nation, One Election headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

In its report submitted to President Droupadi Murmu on March 14, the panel recommended a series of constitutional amendments to hold simultaneous elections at the central, state, and local levels.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said reporters that the move to simultaneous elections would be effected in two phases — in the first phase, Lok Sabha and Assembly elections will be aligned, the second phase, which will be held within 100 days of the first, will cover local body elections.

**What happens after this?**  
The One Nation, One Election project hinges on the Constitution Amendment Bill being passed by Parliament, for which the government will need wide agreement across a range of parties. Since the BJP does not have a majority on its own in Lok Sabha, it will have to talk to its allies in the NDA, as well as the opposition parties.

One way to build the required consensus is to refer the Constitution Amendment Bill to a parliamentary committee — this could be a parliamentary standing committee or a joint parliamentary committee. These bodies will have members of the opposition, and a representative cross-section of the houses.

The Centre will have to reach out to the states as well. To ensure that local bodies too, are included in the scheme of simultaneous elections, at least half the total number of states will have to consent to the required amendments to the Constitution, most agree.

While the BJP is currently in power in more than a dozen states, the coming Assembly elections in Nagaland, Manipal, and Jharkhand, could alter this arithmetic.

**What changes will be needed in the Constitution?**

The first Constitution Amendment Bill to

### HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP IN PARLIAMENT

#### WHAT PARTIES TOLD PANEL

32 OF THE 47 parties that gave their opinion to the Kovind panel supported the idea. 15 opposed it. NDA ally TDP didn't give its opinion, but told The Indian Express that it backed One Nation, One Election in principle. The BJP was initially against it, but now has come out in support.

ALL 32 PARTIES were either BJP allies, or friendly towards the party then. Now, the BJP has turned against the BJP of the 5 parties against the move, five are in power in states, including Congress.

**PARLIAMENT PICTURE NOW**  
PARTIES THAT BACKED the idea of simultaneous elections before the Kovind panel have 271 members in Lok Sabha now. This number includes the 240 MPs from the BJP.

THE NDA, including TDP and others who neither supported nor opposed simultaneous polls before the Kovind panel, has 293 MPs in Lok Sabha.

**NUMBERS GAME IN LOK SABHA**

A TWO-THIRDS majority of members present and voting is needed for the required constitutional amendment to go through — in the full House of

543, that works out to 362 MPs. NDA HAS 293 MPs — so there is a possibility of passage of the amendment only if 439 MPs vote on the Bill, and the remaining 104 abstain. Alternatively, the government will have to convince non-NDA parties to back it.

**ARITHMETIC IN RAJYA SABHA**  
NDA HAS 121 MPs, including the six nominated members. The opposition INDIA bloc has 85 MPs.

IF ALL 250 members are present, a simple majority would be 125 and two-thirds would be 164 MPs. Currently, there are 234 MPs in RS.

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- Additionally, to include local bodies in simultaneous elections, at least half of the states must ratify the Constitutional amendment.
- Although the BJP currently governs in over a dozen states, upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand could impact this distribution.
- **Changes needed in the Constitution**
  - The transition to a simultaneous election system requires two Constitutional Amendment Bills.
  - **First Amendment Bill:** This bill needs a 'special majority' in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which involves:
    - At least half of the total membership of both houses must vote in favor.
    - Two-thirds of members present and voting must approve the amendment.
  - **Second Amendment Bill:** This bill aims to align local body elections with the simultaneous elections. It must satisfy the same conditions as the first bill, plus:
    - Ratification by at least half of the state legislatures is required
    - This is because local government is under the State List, giving states the authority to pass laws related to it.
- **What will happen if these Bills are passed by Parliament?**
  - According to the Kovind Committee's roadmap:
  - **Implementation**
    - The President will issue a notification during the first Lok Sabha sitting after a general election, activating Article 82A from the first Constitution Amendment Bill, which marks the "appointed date."
    - Article 82A — a new article that will be introduced through the first Bill to facilitate the transition to simultaneous elections.
  - **State Assemblies**
    - Any state Assemblies elected after this "appointed date" will be dissolved when the Lok Sabha's term ends.
    - Some state Assemblies will dissolve before their five-year term ends to align with the Lok Sabha elections.
  - **Mid-Term Elections**
    - If a state Assembly or Lok Sabha is dissolved early, a mid-term election will occur.
    - The newly elected body will serve only until the next scheduled simultaneous elections. This interim period is called the "unexpired term."
  - **Election Commission Role**
    - If the ECI determines that a state Assembly election cannot be held simultaneously, it can recommend a delay.
    - However, future elections will still be conducted simultaneously.
  - **Single Electoral Roll**
    - The ECI will create a unified electoral roll for all elections, including Lok Sabha, state Assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats, in collaboration with State Election Commissions.
    - This amendment also needs ratification by at least half of the states.



## 2. India wants 'review & modification' of Indus Waters Treaty GS 2 (International Relations)

### • Why in News:

- India has sent a new formal notice to Pakistan seeking the "review and modification" of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), following a similar request in January 2023.
- This latest notice, issued under **Article XII (3) of the IWT**, is significant as the inclusion of "review" suggests India's intention to potentially revoke and renegotiate the 64-year-old treaty.
- Article XII (3) allows for modifications of the treaty through a duly ratified agreement between the two governments.

### • Indus Water Treaty (IWT)

#### ○ About

- The Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank.
- According to this treaty, **three rivers: Ravi, Sutlej and Beas were given to India** and the other three: **Sindh, Jhelum and Chenab were given to Pakistan**.

#### ○ Rights & obligations under this treaty

- India is under obligation to let the waters of the western rivers flow, except for certain consumptive use.
- The treaty allocates Pakistan approx. 80% of the entire water of the six-river Indus system and reserved for India just remaining 19.48% of the total waters.
- India can construct storage facilities on western rivers of up to 3.6-million-acre feet, which it has not done so far.
- The **IWT permits run of the river projects** on the western rivers, subject to specific design and operation criteria.
  - India is required to provide Pakistan with prior notification, including design information, of any new project.

#### ○ Dispute redressal mechanism under the Treaty

- Article IX of the Treaty is a dispute resolution mechanism - **graded at three levels** to resolve a difference or a dispute related to projects on the Indus waters
- **First level**
  - Either party has to inform the other side if they are planning projects on the Indus river with all the information that is required or asked for by the other party.
  - This process is done at the level of the **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC)**, created to implement and manage the goals of the IWT.
  - If PIC is unable to solve the question in contention, the question becomes difference and goes to second level.

## Indus waters: India to freeze talks with Pak.

**Jacob Koshy**  
**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

There will be no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) till the governments of India and Pakistan meet and discuss the renegotiation of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, a highly placed official told *The Hindu*.

The last meeting was in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revising the treaty but not received a "satisfactory response", according to sources.

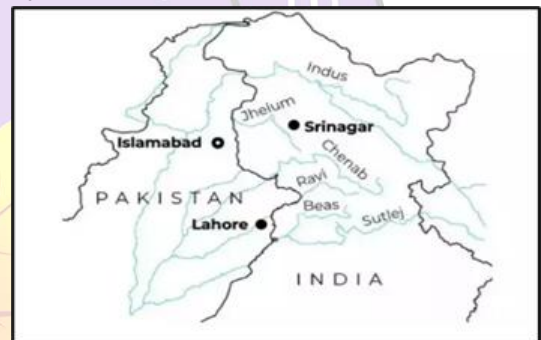
The PIC is the most consequential product of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT),

signed in 1960 to manage the sharing of six Himalayan rivers between India and Pakistan. Commissioners of both countries are mandated to meet every year, and sometimes have met multiple times in a year, to discuss and resolve differences on the sharing of river water and construction of hydel projects.

Despite wars and disputes between India and Pakistan, and the occasional stalling of the meetings, the PIC has been a permanent fixture.

However, with India's call to renegotiate the IWT in January 2023, the PIC risks oblivion.

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- **Second level**
  - The second grade is the **World Bank appointing a neutral expert** to resolve the differences.
  - If a neutral expert cannot resolve the issue, the difference becomes a dispute and goes to third level.
- **Third level**
  - At this level, the matter goes to a Court of Arbitration (CoA) whose chair is appointed by the World Bank
- **India demands modification of IWT**
  - **About the news**
    - Citing fundamental and unforeseen changes in the circumstances, India has sent a formal notice to Pakistan to seek a review of the IWT.
    - It has also cited the impact of persistent cross-border terrorism as one of the reasons for demanding the reassessment of the pact.
    - The notification highlights fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of obligations under various articles of the treaty.
    - India had also sent a notice to Pakistan in January 2023 seeking amendment to 1960 treaty.
  - **Reasons behind India's demand to renegotiate the treaty**
    - India's latest notice to Pakistan on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) cites "fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances" as reasons for reassessment.
    - Concerns include changes in population demographics, environmental issues, the need for clean energy development to meet emission targets, and the impact of cross-border terrorism.
    - The notifications come amid controversy over two Indian hydel power projects in Jammu & Kashmir — **Kishanganga and Ratle** — which Pakistan alleges violate the IWT.
      - These projects are "run-of-the-river" and generate electricity without obstructing river flow.
  - **Reason behind the notice in January 2023**
    - India's latest notice to Pakistan regarding the IWT follows Islamabad's objections to two Indian hydel projects.
    - Pakistan initially sought a "Neutral Expert" to address its concerns but later proposed the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) for adjudication.
    - India objected, citing this as a breach of the treaty's sequential dispute resolution mechanism, **which starts with the Indus Commissioners, then a Neutral Expert, and finally the PCA if needed.** The World Bank halted the dual processes in 2016, urging both countries to resolve the issue amicably.
    - Despite attempts by India, Pakistan did not engage in discussions between 2017 and 2022.
    - In 2022, the World Bank decided to proceed with both the Neutral Expert and PCA processes, **leading to India's January 2023 notice, the first in over 60 years.**

### 3. Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) GS 2 (Governance)

- **Why in News:** The Union cabinet recently extended the PM-AASHA price support scheme in agriculture till 2025-26
- **About Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA):**
  - It is an **umbrella scheme** aimed at ensuring **remunerative prices to the farmers** for their produce.
  - PM AASHA has **three components**, and **states can choose** whichever one they wish to implement. The three components are
  - **Price Support Scheme (PSS):**
    - In PSS, **physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and copra** will be done **by Central Nodal Agencies** with the proactive **role of state governments**.
    - In addition to the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (**NAFED**), **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** will take up PSS operations in states/districts.



- The procurement **expenditure and losses** due to procurement will be **borne by the Central Government** as per norms.
- **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):**
  - Under PDPS, it is proposed to **cover all oilseeds for which MSP is notified**.
  - Direct payment of the **difference between the MSP and the selling/modal price** will be **made to pre-registered farmers** selling his produce in the notified market yard through a transparent auction process.
  - All payments will be done **directly into the registered bank** account of the farmer.
  - This scheme **does not involve any physical procurement** of crops, as farmers are paid the difference between the MSP price and the Sale/modal price on disposal in the notified market.
  - The support of the central government for PDPS will be given as per norms.
- **Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Schemes (PPPS)**
  - In addition to PDPS, **for oilseeds, states have the option to roll out PPSS** on a pilot basis in **selected districts/Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMCs)** of districts **involving the participation of private stockists**.
  - This scheme will **allow private players to participate in the procurement of crops**.
  - The pilot district/selected APMC(s) of the district will cover one or more crops of oilseeds for which MSP is notified.
- **Only one scheme, i.e., PSS or PDPS, may be made operational in one State with respect to one commodity.**

#### 4. 4 Key Space Projects Receive the Go-Ahead from Cabinet **GS 3 (Economy)**

- **Why in News:**
  - The Union Cabinet approves four important space endeavours to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in the near future.
  - In total, the Cabinet cleared funds of more than ₹22,750 crore for the developmental costs of these four programmes, which are in line with the **Vision 2047** mapped by the space agency.
- **What are the 4 Space Projects Approved by the Cabinet?**
  - **Chandrayaan-4** - the 4th iteration of India's lunar mission;
  - The development of **Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)**;
  - The building of the **first unit** of India's indigenous space station, dubbed **Bharatiya Anatriksh Station (BAS)**, by extending the scope of Gaganyaan programme; and
  - The development of the **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**.

## PM-AASHA schemes to continue with additions: Centre

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of schemes of the Pradhan Mantri Anna Dahan Sanraksha Abhiyan (PM-AASHA).

The Centre said the schemes under PM-AASHA will ensure remunerative prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities to benefit consumers.

The Cabinet also fixed the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the upcoming rabi season on phosphatic and potassic (P and K) fertilisers. The tentative budgetary requirement for this will be ₹24,475.53 crore.

The total financial outgo for PM-AASHA will be ₹35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26. The Centre has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA.

"PM-AASHA will now have the components of PSS, PSF and the Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)," the Centre said.

It said the extension of the PSF scheme will help in



The schemes under PM-AASHA will ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Centre said.

protecting consumers from extreme volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities by maintaining strategic buffer stock of pulses and onion for calibrated release. It will also discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, and ensure supplies to consumers at affordable prices.

**Subsidy for fertilizers**  
On the fertilizer subsidy, the Centre said it will ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices. It added that the rationalisation of subsidy on P and K fertilisers is taken in view of the recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs.

### CONSTRUCTION OF SPACE STATION ALSO APPROVED

## Space programme boost: Govt nod for Venus mission, Chandrayaan-4

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

THE UNION government Wednesday approved four big-ticket space projects, including the next mission to the Moon — Chandrayaan-4 — and the first mission to the planet Venus. The union cabinet also gave its nod to the construction of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's own space station, which has now been made part of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme.

Clearance to the development of a reusable rocket, called Next Generation Launch Vehicle, or NGLV, was the fourth decision related to space sector.

These approvals are in line with the space agency's Vision 2047, which envisages a fully functional space station BAS by 2035 and landing human beings on Moon by 2040. "All the missions



ISRO Chairman S. Somnath during a media briefing on the Cabinet decisions, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

are time-bound and there has been good progress on all of these," Railway Minister Arjun Singh said while announcing the cabinet decisions.

The Venus mission, tentatively called Shukrayaan, would cost ₹1,236 crore, with the Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO) aiming for a March 2028 launch. This will be India's first mission to Venus and the second to a planetary body, following the 2013 Mars Orbiter Mission. The mission to Venus will study the surface of planet, its dust and cloud, volcanism, its atmosphere and ionosphere, and its interaction with the sun.

The Chandrayaan-4 mission, which is supposed to bring back samples from the Moon, will entail a cost of ₹2,014 crore. As reported by The Indian Express earlier, Chandrayaan-4 mission will use five different modules and two different launches. The mission will also see docking and undocking — two spacecraft aligning and coming together in orbit — that India hasn't attempted so far.

Follow-up activities on the Gaganyaan mission, including the setting up of BAS space station, will require an additional cost of

₹11,170 crore. The total budget for Gaganyaan mission now stands at ₹20,193 crore. The extended Gaganyaan mission will now see eight missions, including the three that were already planned for the first manned mission.

"The full-fledged space station is planned by 2035, but the first station will be launched by 2028. There is a limitation of the capacity of the launch vehicle, so we have proposed till the first module. The remaining will be done once the NGLV comes up," ISRO chairman Somnath said.

NGLV is designed to enhance ISRO's launch capacity from the current 10 tonnes to the low earth orbit to 30 tonnes. This launch vehicle is one of the requirements for setting up the BAS. The project will cost ₹8,239 crore and the first launch is expected to take place in 84 months. **FULL REPORT** [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

- **About the Chandrayaan-4 Mission:**

- **Budget allocated and launch date:**

- India's **4th mission** to the Moon, for which a budget of **₹2,104.06** crore was cleared, **is slated for launch in 2027**.
    - The approved cost for the mission includes –
      - Spacecraft development and realisation
      - Two launches of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3),
      - External deep space network support, and
      - Conducting special tests for design validation.

- **Objectives:**

- Chandrayaan-4 **will be a remote mission**, aiming to **bring rock samples** from the lunar surface back to Earth after a soft landing.
    - It will build on the success of **Chandrayaan-3**, with which **India became the first country to land a probe on the lunar south pole**.

- **Significance:**

- **It will expand on the technology developed in Chandrayaan-3** by adding elements like lunar docking, precision landing, sample collection and a safe journey back to Earth.
    - **This will make India even more self-reliant** in space technologies, boosting innovation and supporting academia.
    - This mission will **achieve the foundational technologies capabilities** eventually for an **Indian landing on the Moon** (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth.

- **About the Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM):**

- **Budget allocated and launch date:** The **₹1,236** crore VOM mission has set a target of March **2028**. This will be **India's 2nd mission to a planet**, after the **Mars Orbiter Mission** in **2014**.

- **Objectives:**

- India's first scientific mission to Venus involves **sending an orbital spacecraft** to study the planet closest to Earth.
    - **It aims to enable scientists to better understand** the Venusian atmosphere, and geology and generate data that gives information into the planet's thick atmosphere.

- **Significance:**

- Venus is thought to have developed under Earth-like conditions, but a runaway greenhouse effect caused the planet to deviate, rendering it inhospitable for life.
    - It offers a unique opportunity to **understand how planetary environments can evolve very differently**.

- **About the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):**

- **Budget allocated and launch date:**

- India's **most ambitious** space project and the **Gaganyaan follow-on** mission, the project saw a net additional funding of ₹11,170 crore.
    - The first module of the project (dubbed BAS-1) targets a launch in 2028 and the target to complete the entire project is for **2035**.

- **Objectives:** BAS aims to **establish an Indian space station that will orbit 400 km above the Earth's surface**. It will allow astronauts to stay in orbit for 15-20 days.

- **Significance:** The massive 52-tonne machine will serve as a **research platform** for Indian astronauts and scientists **to conduct experiments in microgravity, astronomy, and Earth observation**.

- **About the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV):**

- **Budget allocated and launch date:**

- In total, ₹8,240 crore was approved for NGLV, which includes development costs, three developmental flights, essential facility establishment, programme management and launch campaign.
    - It will take 96 months - with the first launch taking place in 84 months.



- **Objective:**
  - It will be a **new launch vehicle that is capable of high payload**, and will be cost-effective, reusable, and has the potential to be commercially viable.
  - This launch vehicle is **one of the requirements for setting up of BAS**.
- **Significance:**
  - NGLV will have **three times the present payload capability with 1.5 times the cost compared to LVM-3**.
  - It will also have **reusability** resulting in **low-cost access to space** and **modular green propulsion systems**.

## 5. India could generate up to 9.2 lakh TWH from its Blue Renewable Energy Sources GS 2 (Governance)

### • Why in News:

- Researchers at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) in Hyderabad have developed the **Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas**.
- This atlas identifies potential sites along India's coastline that can generate energy from **blue renewable sources** such as tidal waves and currents.

## India could produce up to 9.2 lakh Terawatt hr from blue renewable energy sources: INCOIS

**ANJALI MARAR**  
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 18

INDIAN OCEANOGRAPHERS have mapped sites along India's coastline having potential to generate energy from blue renewable sources like tidal waves and currents.

Researchers at Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) have developed an Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas, which was launched recently via video conferencing by MRavichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The atlas has provided estimated values of renewable energy which can be generated from either individual or by integrated blue renewable sources from potential sites along the coast. The mapping was done for sites with a resolution of 5km x 5km located along the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which covers up to 220 km from the coast.

According to estimates, the Indian EEZ holds potential to generate about 9.2 lakh Terawatt hour (TWh) from multiple blue renewable energy sources.

Speaking about the need for such an atlas, T Srinivasa Kumar, director, INCOIS, said, "The off-

shore renewable energy sources like sun, wind, tides, etc. are not only important but have remained largely untapped. If we are able to use them, it will significantly aid in the energy transition towards a blue economy."

In order to tap these blue renewables, the first step is to know what scope each of these sources — sun, tides, winds, waves, salinity gradient, currents and ocean thermals across the coastline and the islands offer.

To understand it, researchers performed an assessment of potential energy generation based on past 20-30 years of data, obtained from weather models, in-

situ (on-site) and satellites. "This is an important product and a step towards achieving a net zero goal. The atlas will help understand available energy potential sites," said Ravichandran.

This is a first-of-its-kind atlas offering integrated and individual assessment of blue energy reserves across India's EEZ. "This will be useful for industries working in renewable energy sector for planning and decision-making," TM Balakrishnan Nair, head, Ocean Modelling, Applied Research and Services at INCOIS, said.

Anjali Marar is a science communicator at Raman Research Institute

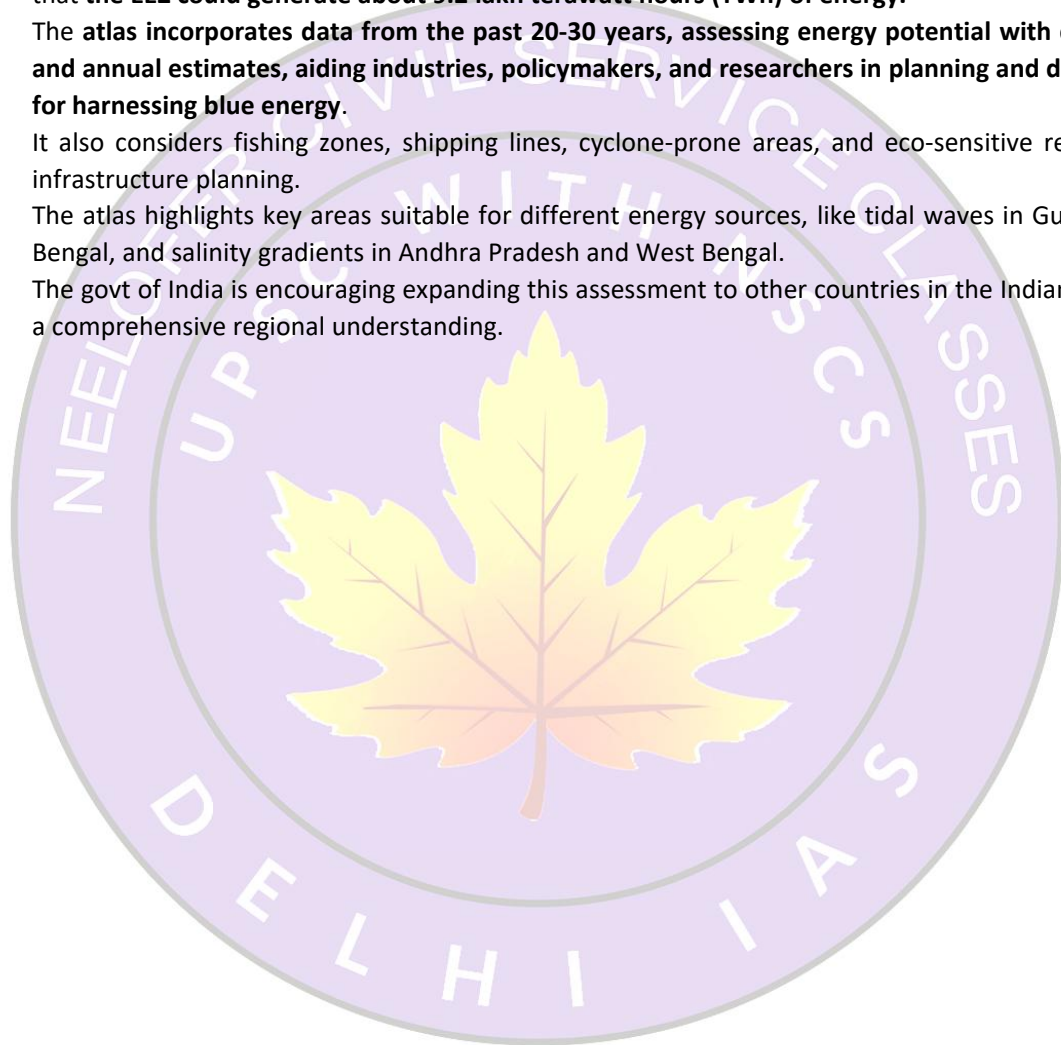
### • About INCOIS:

- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) is an autonomous organization, established in 1999, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- It is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
- **Objective:** To provide ocean data, information and advisory services to society, industry, the government and the scientific community.
- **Activities of INCOIS Include:**
  - Provides round-the-clock monitoring and warning services for the coastal population on tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, etc.
  - Provides daily advisories to fisher folk to help them easily locate areas of abundant fish in the ocean while saving on both fuel and time used to search for the same.
  - Short term (3-7 days) Ocean State Forecasts (waves, currents, sea surface temperature, etc.) are issued daily.
  - Deploys and maintains a suite of Ocean Observing Systems in the Indian Ocean to collect data on various oceanic parameters to understand the processes in the ocean and to predict their changes.

### • Blue Renewable Energy Sources:

- Blue Renewable Energy Sources refer to sustainable energy derived from the ocean's natural forces, including tidal waves, ocean currents, and thermal gradients.
- These sources harness the immense power of the sea to generate electricity without emitting greenhouse gases, making them a clean and eco-friendly alternative to fossil fuels.
- Key types of blue renewable energy include:
  - **Tidal Energy:** Generated from the rise and fall of tides, tidal energy uses turbines placed in tidal streams or barrages to produce electricity.
  - **Wave Energy:** Captures energy from surface waves using floating devices or underwater systems, converting the kinetic motion of waves into power.

- **Ocean Current Energy:** Utilizes the continuous flow of ocean currents to turn underwater turbines, generating consistent and predictable electricity.
- **Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC):** Exploits the temperature difference between warm surface water and cold deep water to generate power, often using a heat engine.
- Blue renewable energy holds significant potential for sustainable power generation, particularly for coastal and island nations, providing a reliable and environmentally friendly energy solution.
- **India could generate up to 9.2 lakh TWH from its Blue Renewable Energy Sources – Summary**
  - Researchers at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) have developed the Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas.
  - This first-of-its-kind atlas maps potential sites along India's coastline for generating blue renewable energy from sources like tidal waves, currents, and salinity gradients.
  - Covering India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of up to 220 km from the coast, the atlas estimates that **the EEZ could generate about 9.2 lakh terawatt hours (TWh) of energy.**
  - The **atlas incorporates data from the past 20-30 years, assessing energy potential with daily, monthly, and annual estimates, aiding industries, policymakers, and researchers in planning and decision-making for harnessing blue energy.**
  - It also considers fishing zones, shipping lines, cyclone-prone areas, and eco-sensitive regions to guide infrastructure planning.
  - The atlas highlights key areas suitable for different energy sources, like tidal waves in Gujarat and West Bengal, and salinity gradients in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.
  - The govt of India is encouraging expanding this assessment to other countries in the Indian Ocean to gain a comprehensive regional understanding.





**MCQ Current Affairs****19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2024****1. Consider the following statements regarding Houthis:**

- A. They are an Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim military and political movement in Yemen.
- B. The Houthi movement began as an effort to maintain autonomy and protest Western influence in the Middle East.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two

**2. Which one of the following is NOT a component of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme?**

- a) Price Support Scheme (PSS)
- b) Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Schemes (PPPS)
- c) Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)
- d) Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

**3. Consider the following statements regarding the Naga king chilli:**

- A. It is known for its extreme heat and ranked among the hottest chillies in the world.
- B. It has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two

**4. Consider the following statements regarding the Bio- RIDE Scheme:**

- A. It is designed to foster innovation and promote bio-entrepreneurship in India.
- B. It is being implemented for a period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two

**5. Consider the following statements regarding the Next Generation Launch Vehicle:**

- A. It will have reusability and modular green propulsion systems.
- B. It will be developed to have a maximum payload capability of 300 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) A only
- b) B only
- c) A and B
- d) Neither of two

**Answers Current Affairs**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2024**

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1. c
2. c
3. c
4. c
5. a

