

**CURRENT EVENTS  
AND  
ANALYSIS  
(January 2021)  
NATIONAL POLITY**

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# CURRENT EVENTS AND ANALYSIS

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# NATIONAL POLITY

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## *Fundamental Rights (Right to Privacy):*

### **Controversy over WhatsApp New Privacy Policy**

- On January 4, 2021, WhatsApp, social media app which provides its users facilities such as messaging, video sharing, voice and video calls through internet, announced changes to its terms of privacy policy.
- WhatsApp was founded in 2010 by Brian Acton and Jan Koum, former employees of Yahoo.
- It was acquired by Facebook, a social media company owned by Mark Zuckerberg, in 2014 for US \$ 19 billion.
- WhatsApp has over one billion users worldwide.
- With 45 crore active users in India, WhatsApp is the preferred texting platform with millions of messages sent across every single day.

### **Features of the new changes in privacy policy:**

- The new WhatsApp platform will collect data from the new payment feature, including processing method, transactions and shipment data.
- It will also collect and share location, device model, operating system, battery level and browser details.
- WhatsApp would share data of its users with Facebook companies and third party apps which would use the data for business purposes like targeted advertisements by knowing the preferences and behaviour patterns of its users. Sharing of data will enable monetisation of the WhatsApp platform without charging its users.
- Users will have to give consent to this new condition if they want to use WhatsApp.
- They will **not have the option of opting out of the new conditions.**
- If they are not willing to give consent to the new conditions, all WhatsApp functions would not work in their app.
- The users would get calls as well as notifications from WhatsApp, but they would not be able to read or send messages anymore.
- On the other hand, **users who wish to not accept the policy would be able to export their chat history** on Android or iOS platforms and would also be able to download the report of the account. They would also be able to delete their accounts.

### **Impact of the New Policy:**

- The updated WhatsApp terms will help Facebook and connected third-party apps to exploit user data for commercial gain, including personal data, breaching user's privacy.

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- There is a lack of independent third-party assessment with regard to what and how much data is being used.
  - Hence, WhatsApp users who were concerned about their privacy getting compromised, have **shifted to alternative platforms** such as **Signal and Telegram**.
  - Several Petitions have been filed in Supreme Court on the new terms in privacy policy of WhatsApp
  - The Government of India has asked WhatsApp to withdraw the proposed changes in its privacy policy due to
    - a) privacy concerns of Indian citizens, and
    - b) lack of choice to its users to accept or reject new terms.
  - Government pointed out that the Indian users were being subject to differential treatment when compared to their European counterparts. WhatsApp gave users in European Union have option to opt out of data-sharing with Facebook companies and other third party apps.
  - Hence, the Government has sent a set of questions to WhatsApp to respond with regard to changes made in the privacy policy.
    - These include questions such as
      - a) exact categories of data that WhatsApp collects from Indian users,
      - b) details of permissions sought and their utility,
      - c) if it does profiling of Indian users on the basis of app usage,
      - d) difference between privacy policy of the application in India and in other countries,
      - e) if WhatsApp shares data with other apps,
      - f) whether WhatsApp captures info about other applications running on the mobile phone device of the user, and
      - g) on which server is the data of Indian users transmitted and hosted.

#### **Response of WhatsApp to Criticism on its New Privacy Policy:**

- WhatsApp has been bought by Facebook for a whopping US \$19 billion.
- Facebook has also given up plans to charge its users and has decided to continue it as free platform for users.
- So, it has to find ways to recover its investments and make money through the app.
- Sharing data by WhatsApp with Facebook and other third party apps will help raising revenues without charging the users.
- Hence, WhatsApp decided to stick to its new terms of its privacy policy.
- WhatsApp's new privacy policy was to come into effect on February 8, 2021.

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- After a backlash from its users over the revised privacy policy, WhatsApp deferred the update to May 15, 2021 to give more time to the users to understand its updated terms on its privacy policy.
  - Regarding the option given to users in EU countries to opt out of data sharing with other companies, Facebook stated that EU has a privacy law called General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which prevents such sharing between apps. India has not yet passed data protection law. It stated that whenever such law comes into force, it would align its privacy policy according to the provisions of the Law.
  - WhatsApp also stated that except Europe the new privacy policy is applicable to the rest of the world.

### *Security Issues:*

### **Armed Forces Special Powers Act Extended for Six More Months in Nagaland**

- The Union Government declared the whole of Nagaland as a "disturbed" area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for a further period of six months on December 30, 2020.
- Nagaland has been under AFSPA for almost six decades now.
- It was not withdrawn even after a framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015, by Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak Muivah) General Secretary Thuingaleng Muivah and government interlocutor R.N. Ravi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **Why was the Operationalisation of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act Extended?**

- According to Union Home Ministry, the operationalisation of the Act was extended due to the following reasons.
- **Killings, lootings and extortion by insurgent groups** have been going on in various parts of Nagaland.
- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act will aid the security forces **in restoring public order in the State.**

### **Details about Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958:**

- It was enacted by the Parliament in 1958.
- **AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".**
- **A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA.**
- **An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities.**

### **Who Declares an Area as a Disturbed Area?**

- The Union Government, or State Government or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

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- A suitable notification would have to be made in the Official Gazette.
  - As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where "the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary".

#### **Powers of Armed Forces in Disturbed Areas:**

- Armed Forces have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area.
- They **can use force or even open fire** after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant;

#### **Criticism Against Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act:**

- However, there have been demands from various organisations in the Northeast as well as in Jammu and Kashmir where AFSPA is in force for repealing it for following reasons.
- AFSPA is **draconian law** as it gives "**sweeping powers**" to **Armed forces**. They can open fire if they deem it necessary for "the maintenance of public order".
- Armed Forces have immunity from prosecution for their actions under the AFSPA.
- Critics argue that as a result of this blanket immunity to armed forces, they are resorting to human rights violations and extra-judicial killings through encounters.
- They contend that AFSPA has resulted in innumerable incidents of arbitrary detention, torture, rape, and looting by security personnel.

#### **Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy Committee Recommends Repeal of AFSPA:**

- In **2005 a high-level official Committee headed by Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy**, which was set up by the Supreme Court to review AFSPA,
- found **serious human rights violations** by security forces, and
- **recommended its repeal** stating that the Act has become a symbol of oppression, and an instrument of high-handedness.
- The Committee pointed out that **protection from legal proceedings against soldiers acting in good faith already** exists in Section 49 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (ULP Act).
- It also noted that while providing protection against civil or criminal proceedings in respect of the acts and deeds done by the armed forces while carrying out the duties entrusted to them, it is equally necessary to ensure that where they knowingly abuse or misuse their powers, they must be held accountable and must be dealt with according to the law applicable to them.

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- Accordingly, **the Committee recommended amending the ULP Act to provide protection to ordinary citizens against possible abuse of powers by armed forces.**

#### **Criticism on use of Armed Forces for Internal Security:**

- The use of Armed Forces for maintaining internal security for prolonged periods has also come under criticism.
- AFSPA is meant to facilitate short engagement of Army in Internal Security (IS) duties to quell insurgency. But the problem is the **prolonged and endless deployment of Army in internal security duties** which is the job of the police and at best para-military forces.
- As per Army Doctrine, **Indian army has two roles.**
- **Primary Role:** Preserve national interests and safeguard sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of India against any external threats by deterrence or by waging war.
- **Secondary Role: Assist Government agencies to cope with 'proxy war' and other internal threats and provide aid to civil authority** when requisitioned for the purpose.
- Thus, **Indian Army's primary role is to preserve national interests and safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of India against any external threats** by deterrence or by waging war. To perform this role, Army keeps aloof from the civilian crowd, concentrating on their training and battle readiness.
- But, relegating the Army to its secondary/tertiary role by decades-long deployment on counter-insurgency and internal security duties **dilutes its authority, corrupts ranks and compromises efficiency through lack of training.**
- Critics contend that in their primary role where enemies are involved armed forces personnel certainly enjoy immunity without question. But giving them such immunity in their secondary/tertiary role where Indian citizens are involved, will pose clear **danger to India's constitutional mandates of freedom, liberty and rule of law.**

#### **Where is AFSPA in Force at Present?**

- It is effective in the whole of Nagaland, Assam, Manipur (excluding seven Assembly Constituencies of Imphal) and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Centre revoked it in Meghalaya on April 1, 2018. Earlier, the AFSPA was effective in a 20 km area along the Assam-Meghalaya border.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, the impact of AFSPA was reduced to 8 police stations instead of 16 in Tirap, Longding and Changlang districts bordering Assam.
- Tripura withdrew the AFSPA in 2015.
- It was promulgated in Punjab in 1983 and withdrawn in 1997.
- It is in force in Jammu and Kashmir since 1990.

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## SOCIAL SECTOR:

### *Education:*

#### **Institutes of Eminence Allowed to Set up Foreign Campuses**

- In January 2021, the Ministry of Education allowed Institutes of Eminence (IOE) to set up campuses in foreign countries.

#### **What are Institutes of Eminence?**

- In 2016, the Government decided to set up world class teaching and research institutions in India.
- Accordingly, the Government decided to accord Institutes of Eminence (IOE) status to 20 Institutions.
- Among the 20 institutions, 10 are to be from public sector and 10 from private sector.
- These 20 Institutes of Eminence (IOE) can be set up by upgrading the present institutions or setting up new institutions (also called Greenfield institutions)

#### **What are the Objectives of Institutes of Eminence?**

- Indian Institutions rank poorly in World Ranking of Universities. For instance, the best rank bagged by an Indian institution was 152 by IIT Bombay.
- (The World ranking of Universities is given by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). Hence they are commonly called QS World University Rankings. Quacquarelli Symonds is a British company specialising in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world.)
- Hence, the Government decided to facilitate setting up of world class teaching and research institutions in India by giving them greater autonomy and financial support.
- These 20 institutions are expected to come up in top 500 of the world ranking in 10 years and in top 100 of the world ranking eventually overtime.
- Each **public Institution** selected as 'Institution of Eminence' will get financial assistance up to Rs. **1000 crore** over the period of five years.
- **Private Institutions will not get any financial help from Government** but they will have autonomy (academic and administrative) in running their institutes.

#### **What are the Salient Features of Institutes of Eminence?**

- Institutions of Eminence are provided with greater autonomy.
- They can
  - design their own curriculum and syllabus,
  - admit foreign students up to 30% of admitted students,
  - recruit foreign faculty up to 25% of faculty strength,
  - recruit personnel from industry as faculty who are experts in their area,

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- offer online courses up to 20% of its programmes,
  - enter into academic collaboration with top 500 in the world ranking Institutions without permission of University Grants Commission (UGC), and
  - fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.
  - Faculty Student Ratio should be 1:20 at the time of notification and should increase to 1:10 in five years.

### **Permission for setting up Campuses in Foreign Countries?**

- In January 2021, the Government allowed Institutes of Eminence (IOE) to set up campuses in foreign countries with following conditions.
- An institution willing to establish an off-campus centre shall have to submit an application to the Ministry of Education containing its 10-year 'strategic vision plan' and a five-year 'rolling implementation plan' with the plans for academics, faculty recruitment, student admissions, research, infrastructure development, finance, and administration, etc
- Each Institute of Eminence will be permitted to start a maximum of three off-campus centres over a period of five years (with not more than one in an academic year).
- Foreign campus should also have enrolled a minimum of 500 students on its rolls under regular classroom mode with one third PG/research students.
- At least 60 per cent of the appointed faculty members should be on permanent basis.
- It is expected to achieve a teacher-student ratio of 1:20 initially, and 1:10 by the end of five years.

### **List of Institutes of Eminence (IOE):**

- The following are the 10 Public Institutions and Private Institutions selected for granting Institutes of Eminence (IoE) category status.

#### **Public Institutions:**

1	IIT Bombay
2	IIT Delhi
3	IISc Bangalore
4	IIT Madras
5	IIT Kharagpur
6	Delhi University
7	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad
8	Jadavpur University, Kolkata
9	Anna University, Chennai
10	BHU, Varanasi

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**Private Institutions:**

1	BITS Pilani, Rajasthan
2	Manipal Academy of Higher Education
3	Jio Institute (Reliance Foundation, Maharashtra)
4	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Bangalore
5	VIT Vellore, Tami Nadu
6	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
7	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar
8	O.P JINDAL University, Haryana
9	Shiv Nadar University, Uttar Pradesh
10	Bharti (Satya Bharti Foundation), Delhi

**SOCIAL SECTOR:***Interfaith Marriages:***Mandatory 30 Days Notice for Interfaith Marriages Violates Right to Privacy : Allahabad High Court**

- In January 2021, the Allahabad High Court ruled that 30 days notice period for interfaith marriages as mandated under the Special Marriages Act, 1954 violates Right to Liberty and privacy and made the condition only optional.

**Background:**

- Marriages in India are registered under personal laws i.e. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslim Marriage Act, 1954, Indian Christian Marriage Act of 1872.
- Special Marriage Act, 1954 was passed for registration of interfaith marriages i.e. marriages between individuals of two different faiths if they do not want to change their religion due to marriage.
- However, the Special Marriage Act, 1954 mandates (in Section 5) that individuals intending to get their marriage registered under the Act should give a notice to the Marriage Officer of a district in which at least one of the parties to the marriage resides.
- The notice should contain names of the individuals who want to get married, their occupation, age, place of residence, length of residence in that place, etc.
- The Marriage Officer will keep the notice in the records and also affix a copy of the notice in the office. **Any person may object to the marriage within 30 days of the public notice on the grounds the marriage is against the conditions** specified in the Special Marriages Act for interfaith marriages.

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- The Special Marriage Act, 1954 sets the conditions for interfaith marriages.
  - Both the intending parties must be a citizens of India.
  - Neither of the parties must be having a living spouse at the time of marriage.
  - In the case where either or both of the parties were involved in an earlier marriage, it is essential that the earlier marriage must be legally dissolved before applying under this Act.
  - The intending parties must comply with the age limit given under this Act.
  - The female should at least be of 18 years at the time of applying for marriage and the male must have completed the age of 21.
  - Any Marriage Officer who wilfully registers a marriage without publishing the notice regarding marriage or registers the marriage within 30 days of publication of notice of such marriage would be punished with an imprisonment up to one year or fine up to Rs 500 or both fine and imprisonment.

#### **Background and Verdict of the Allahabad High Court:**

- A Muslim woman Sufiya married a Hindu man Abhishek after converting to his religion and as per Hindu rituals. The father of Muslim women did not give consent to the marriage and took her daughter to his home.
- She filed a habeas corpus writ in the Allahabad High Court. (Habeas corpus is issued to direct a particular individual or authority who has detained a person to produce the detenu before the court.)
- The father produced his daughter before the Court.
- The couple told the Court they were **adults and married under free will and want to live together**. Then, the father of girl gave consent to their marriage.
- The couple also told the court they could have solemnised their marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, but for the requirement of 30-days notice. They said such a notice was

**a) an invasion of their privacy,**

**b) draws unnecessary social pressure, and**

**c) interferes in their life.**

#### **Verdict of Allahabad High Court:**

- The Allahabad High Court ruled that in the light of the Supreme Court judgement recognising Right to Privacy, the 30 day notice period for registering marriage needs to be revisited. Law must keep evolving with time and social changes.
- The 30 day notice period violates Fundamental Right to Privacy of individuals who want to get their marriage registered under Special Marriages Act.

- Moreover, **there is no provision of a 30-day notice period to get married under personal laws** (i.e. Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslim Marriage Act, 1954, Indian Christian Marriage Act of 1872). Hence, this should not be mandatory under the Special Marriage Act.
- Since the matter relates to **protection of fundamental rights of a large number of persons**, the Court directed the senior registrar of the court to send a copy of the order to U.P. Chief Secretary. The same is to be communicated to all the marriage officers in the State and other concerned authorities as expeditiously as possible.

***Corruption:***

**India Ranked 86th in the Corruption Perception Index - 2020**

- India was ranked 86th out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) - 2020 released in January 2021 by Transparency International, an anti-corruption watchdog based in Berlin, Germany.
- The Corruption Perception Index ranks 180 countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.
- It uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

**What is Corruption and What is Its Impact?**

- Corruption is the abuse of official power for private gain.
- Corruption erodes trust, weakens democracy, hampers economic development and further exacerbates inequality.
- Transparency International founded in 1993 by Peter Eigen, former World Bank official, to raise public awareness about corruption and its impact on society.
- The first corruption perception index report was published in 1995.
- Now, Transparency International has become a global movement against corruption with presence in more than 100 countries.
- Transparency International played a key role in making foreign bribery a crime.
- Due to its advocacy, 34 countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) enacted laws prohibiting paying bribes to authorities in other countries.

**Top 5 Countries in the Corruption Perception Index - 2020 (Countries with least corruption):**

Rank	Country
1	Denmark
2	New Zealand
3	Finland
4	Singapore
5	Sweden

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**Bottom 5 Countries in the Index (Countries with high corruption):**

Rank	Country
176	Venezuela
177	Yemen
178	Syria
179	Somalia
180	South Sudan

**Ranking of India and Its Neighbouring Countries:**

Country	Rank
Bhutan	24
Maldives	75
China	78
India	86
Sri Lanka	94
Nepal	117
Pakistan	124
Myanmar	137
Bangladesh	146

*Girls:*

**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme Completes Six Years**

- The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save and Educate Girl Child) Scheme completed six years in January 2021.
- The Scheme was launched by Prime Minister of India on January 22, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana.

**Why was the Scheme Launched?**

- There is **discrimination against girl** child in the society.
- 1. This is reflected in the **Child Sex Ratio (CSR)** which is 918 as per 2011 census (918 girls per thousand boys). This adverse sex ratio is due to sex selection through the pre-natal diagnostic tests. Boys are preferred than girls.
- 2. **Even after birth, gender inequality** persists. **Education of girl child is neglected.**
- Hence, **the Government launched Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save and Educate Girl Child) Scheme to**

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1. end discrimination against girl child,
  2. address the issue of low Child Sex Ratio (CSR) by bringing behavioural change in the society towards girl child through sensitisation campaigns, and
  3. empower them through education.

#### **Importance of Education for Girls:**

- Educating girl child has multiple benefits. It
  - a) eliminates scope for child marriages,
  - b) delays pregnancy of young girls,
  - c) reduces maternal mortality rate, and
  - d) reduces infant mortality rate (as educated women can take informed decisions regarding marriage, childbearing, nutrition, etc)

#### **What is the Outcome from the Scheme So Far?**

##### **1. Increased Awareness:**

The scheme has resulted in **increased awareness and sensitisation of the masses regarding prevalence of gender bias** and role of community in eradicating it.

##### **2. Education :**

Gross Enrolment Ratio of girls in the schools at secondary level has improved from 77.45 (2014-15) to 81.32 (2018-19).

Percentage of schools with functional separate toilets for girls has shown improvement from 92.1% in 2014-15 to 95.1% in 2018-19.

##### **3. Health :**

**Percentage of 1st Trimester Ante natal Checkup (ANC) Registrations** has shown an improving trend from 61% in 2014-15 to **71% in 2019-20**.

**Percentage of institutional deliveries** has shown an improving trend from **87% in 2014-15 to 94% in 2019-20**.

#### **STATES**

##### ***Jammu & Kashmir:***

#### **New Industrial Policy for Jammu and Kashmir**

- On January 7, 2021, the Union Government approved a new central sector scheme for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Implementation Period:** up to 2036-37
- **Total Expenditure** on the Scheme: Rs. 28,400 crores.

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**Objectives** of the Scheme are

1. to contribute to industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir, and
  2. generate employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir  
by encouraging setting of new industries in manufacturing and service sector by providing industrial incentives.
- Employment Potential of the Scheme: 4.5 lakhs

**Main Features of the Scheme:**

**The scheme provides for**

1. Capital investment incentives,
2. Capital interest subvention,
3. Working capital interest subvention, and
4. Goods and Services Tax (GST) linked incentives.

**Details:**

**Capital Investment Incentive:**

- For the purpose of giving incentives, Jammu and Kashmir has been divided into Zone-A and Zone=B
- Zone-B includes far-off areas. These will receive higher incentives so as to ensure equal opportunities of growth in far-flung areas and major towns.
- Zone-A includes areas other than Zone-B
- All eligible units located in Zone A will be provided **Capital Investment Incentive @30% of the investment made in plant and machinery** (for manufacturing sector), **or for construction of building and installation of other durable physical assets** (for services sector) with maximum limit of Rs. 5.00 crore.
- All eligible units located in Zone B category blocks in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir will be provided Capital Investment Incentive @50% of the investment made in plant and machinery (for manufacturing), or for construction of building and installation of other durable physical assets (for services sector) with maximum limit of Rs.7.50 crore.

**Capital Interest subvention:**

- Interest on loan up to the principal amount of Rs. 500 crore for investment in eligible plant and machinery (in manufacturing) or construction of building and all other durable physical assets (in service sector) shall be eligible for Capital Interest subvention.
- All eligible units can avail Capital Interest Subvention at the annual rate of interest of 6% for a maximum of 7 consecutive years.

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### **Interest Incentives on Working Capital:**

- All existing units will be eligible for working capital loans at the annual rate of 5% for maximum 5 years.
- Maximum limit of incentive is Rs 1 crore.

### **Goods and Services Tax (GST) linked incentives.**

- All eligible units will be granted Goods & Services Tax Linked Incentive (GSTLI) equal to 100% of Gross payment of GST, i.e. GST paid through cash and input tax credit for a maximum period of 10 years from the date of commencement of commercial production.

### **Rattle Hydroelectric Project**

- On January 20, 2021, the Union Government gave approval for investment of Rs.5281.94 crore for construction of **850 MW Rattle Hydro Electric (HE) Project located on river Chenab**, in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project would be executed through a new Joint Venture Company (JVC) to be incorporated by National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC) with equity contribution of 51% and 49% respectively.
- The Rattle Hydro Electric Project shall be commissioned within a span of 60 months.
- The construction activities of the Project will result in direct and indirect employment to around 4000 persons and will contribute in overall socio-economic development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Jammu and Kashmir to Become Power Surplus:**

- Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha with the execution of Rattle Hydroelectric Project Jammu and Kashmir will become power surplus.
- He stated that since Independence up to the year 2018, projects of only around 3500 MW had been set up in Jammu and Kashmir. Against this, projects with capacity of 6300 MW would be set up in the Union Territory in the next five years. This is almost double the installed capacity set up since Independence, the Lieutenant Governor said.
- The Lt. Governor also said that four more projects - (Kirthai-II (930 MW), Sawalkot (1,856 MW), Uri-I (Stage-II) (240 MW) and Dulhasti (Stage-II) (258 MW) - involving an investment of Rs.31,000 crore had also been decided to be taken up for construction.