

## 1. Rajya Sabha Election

Topic: Polity and Governance

### Lok Sabha

- Members of Lok Sabha are directly elected by the eligible voters
- The period of Lok Sabha is five years
- The maximum strength 552 members
- Money bills can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha. It grants the money for running the administration of the country
- More powerful than Rajya Sabha

### Rajya Sabha

- Members of Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected members of state legislative assembly
- It is a permanent body, one third of its member retire every two years
- It has not more than 250 members
- The Rajya Sabha does not exercise much power over money bills.
- Less powerful than the Lok Sabha

**In News:** Rajya Sabha Elections for some states has been held recently.

#### More on the Topic:

- The Rajya Sabha, constitutionally the Council of States, is the upper house of the bicameral Parliament of India.
- The potential seating capacity of the Rajya Sabha is 250 (238 elected, 12 appointed), according to article 80 of the Indian Constitution.
- Members term is six years. **About a third of the 233 designates up for election every two years**, in even-numbered years.
- The Rajya Sabha meets in continuous sessions, and unlike the Lok Sabha the Rajya Sabha is not subjected to dissolution.
- However, the Rajya Sabha, like the Lok Sabha, can be **prorogued by the president**.

#### Election to Rajya Sabha:

- As of 2021 it has a maximum membership of 245, of which 233 are elected by the legislatures of the states and union territories using **single transferable votes through open ballots**, while the **president can appoint 12 members** for their contributions to art, literature, science, and social services.
- **'None of the above (NOTA)'** option is not applicable in RS Election.
- If the electors don't vote for the party candidate **won't cause disqualification under anti defection law as well**.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. Neobanks

Topic: Economy

# RBI WORKING GROUP'S SUGGESTIONS

<p><b>1</b> Operations of digital banks/neobanks should be covered under RBI regulations</p>	<p><b>2</b> More of digital-only NBFCs to be encouraged and groundwork for digital banks should be laid</p>
<p><b>3</b> 'Over the top' entities posing as banks in promotional materials should be prohibited from doing so</p>	<p><b>4</b> Banks that partner OTT entities must set operational codes for them</p>
<p><b>5</b> RBI sandbox should have a category for running pilot projects on digital lenders</p>	

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**In News:** The RBI is closely watching neo bank business model.

### More on the Topic:

- A neobank is a kind of digital bank without any branches. Rather than being physically present at a specific location, **neobanking is entirely online.**
- It's a wide umbrella of financial service providers who beseech today's tech-savvy customers. **Neobanks can be called fintech firms that provide digital and mobile-first financial solutions payments and money transfers, money lending, and more.**
- Neobanks **don't have a bank license of their own** but count on bank partners to provide bank licensed services.
- Data-driven decisions drive the decision-making process of a neobank. Since their platforms are also very modernized, **it becomes easier for them to collect and analyze data and understand how their customers behave in the neobanking ecosystem.**
- Because **Neobanks are customer-centric**, they provide personalized services to their customers that are fired up via technology.

### Concens Associated with neo Banks:

- Unlike traditional banks, neo-banks don't have a physical presence, so customers cannot literally 'bank upon' them in case of any issues/challenges.

- Secondly, neo-banks are yet to be recognised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). So, they have to engage with regulated banks and financial institutions to offer financial products and services.
- Due to the absence of enabling regulations, neo-banks cannot accept deposits or offer lending products on their own books.
- As it is completely online, it also possesses digital security risks such as hacking and data theft.
- They offer only a small range of products and services and are not able to cater to non-tech savvy consumers

**Source: Indian Express**

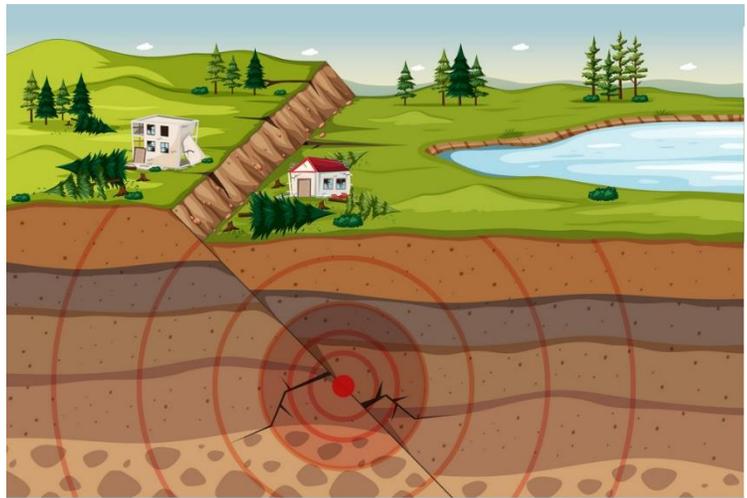
### 3. Mumbai is sinking Each year

#### Topic: Environment and Ecology

**In News:** A new research has revealed that Mumbai is sinking by an average of 2 mm annually because of a geographical phenomenon known as land subsidence - downward, vertical movement of the earth's surface.

#### More on the Topic:

- Though global warming is one of the main reasons for the phenomenon, it is not the only reason.
- Groundwater extraction, mining, reclamation of natural wetlands, infrastructure projects and ecological disturbances is leading to land subsidence in Mumbai.
- The study also analyzed the land subsidence in 99 countries globally and found that Tianjin in China is the fastest sinking coastal city in the world at a rate of 5.2 cm per year.



#### Implication of the phenomenon:

- With sea levels projected to rise by around 1 to 1.2 metres in a high emissions scenario, It is found that **nearly 38 percent Mumbai's land may be inundated during normal rainfall**. This is a severe issue that has to be addressed immediately.
- Researchers have found that the combined effect of declining groundwater and high-rise buildings have made Mumbai vulnerable to **“subsidence, leading to increased inundation”**.



- Additionally, the areas prone to subsidence witness the “**worst impacts of flooding and property damage**”.

**Land Subsidence:**

- Land subsidence is a **gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface** owing to subsurface movement of earth materials.
- Subsidence is a **general term for downward vertical movement of the Earth's surface**, which can be caused by both natural processes and human activities. Subsidence involves little or **no horizontal movement, which distinguishes it from slope movement.**

Source: Hindu

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## 4. The Agnipath scheme

Topic: Government Schemes

## AGNIPATH: 46K TO BE SIGNED UP WITH SALARY OF ₹30K-₹40K

### THE SCHEME

- > All recruitment in Army, Navy & IAF (except officers) to be under the pan-country 'Agnipath' scheme
- > **46,000 youth** (17.5 to 21 age group) to be recruited this year
- > **4-year tenure** will include 6-month basic training (instead of existing 9 to 11 months)
- > After 4 years, **25% Agniveers will be selected** for regular cadre for a full term of another 15 years
- > 75% Agniveers will be demobilized with 'Seva Nidhi' exit package of **₹11.71 lakh** & skill certificates. **No pension or gratuity**
- > Scheme to be progressively be opened for women based on service requirements



### STATED AIMS

- > Slash ballooning salary & pension bills
- > Induct tech-savvy youth for future warfare
- > Reduce average age from existing 32 to 24-26 in 6-7 years
- > Ensure nation-building through disciplined youth with military ethos in civil society

### CRITICISM

- > No pilot project to test the scheme
- > Will dilute professionalism, military ethos & fighting spirit
- > Takes 7-8 years to become a fully trained combat-ready soldier
- > Agniveers will be risk-averse, with the bulk looking for a second career
- > Will hit the basic ethos of 'Naam, Namak and Nishaan' (reputation of battalion, fidelity & ensign/colours) for which soldiers fight
- > Lead to militarization of society with around 35,000 combat-trained youth being rendered jobless every year

**In News:** The Union Cabinet approved the Agnipath military recruitment scheme recently.

### More on the Topic:

- It will allow Indian youth to serve in the armed forces for four years.
- The scheme aims to bring about a **transformational shift towards more tech-savvy armed forces by hiring youngsters who are in tune with contemporary technological trends.**
- Recruits will get an attractive monthly package along with risk and hardship allowances.
- Up to 25 percent of each batch of Agniveers will be enrolled as regular cadre of the armed forces.
- For those who are re-selected, the initial 4 year period will not be considered for retirement benefits.
- The move is expected to decrease the average age profile of armed forces personnel from the current 32 to 24-26 years over a period of time.
- Enrolment will be undertaken through an online centralised system for all armed forces.

**Source: Indian Express**

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## 5. Twin Tropical Cyclones

### Topic: Geography

**In News:** Cyclones Asani and Karim, titled after the northern and southern hemispheres, are twin cyclones that formed at almost uniform longitude in the recent month.



### More on the Topic:

- The twin tropical cyclones are induced by **Rossby waves near the equator**.
- These symmetric tropical storms are created by the interaction of the wind and monsoon systems, as well as the Earth system.
- **Rossby waves are massive ocean surges with a wavelength range of 4,000–5,000 kms.**
- These waves are termed after notable meteorologist Carl-Gustaf Rossby, who was the first to illustrate that all these waves emerged due to the earth's rotation.

### Structure of the Twin Cyclones:

- This structure has a **whirlpool in the northern latitudes and the other in the southern region that are mirror images of one another**.
- The vortex in the northern latitudes moves **anticlockwise and has a positive turn**, whereas the one in the southern hemisphere turns **clockwise and it has a negative spin**.
- **The Coriolis effect**—a strength steered by Earth's axis diverts sweeping winds in one way in the Northern Hemisphere as well as the opposite way in the Southern Hemisphere.
- **Coriolis Force** causes cyclo
- ne winds to turn anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere but clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

**Source: Business Standard**

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## 6. Tendu Leaf

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**

**In News:** Chhattisgarh tribal have filed FIR against forest official over tendu leaf collection.

### More on the Topic:

- The villagers have claimed that the Gram Sabhas of 13 villages had passed a proposal to collect and sell tendu leaves on their own earlier this year.
- Advance notice was also given to all the concerned government bodies and departments in this regard.
- Against their will officer has confiscated Tendu leaves and this became the reason for the tension.
- Tendu leaf collectors allege that the government gives them a lower price for the leaves, while it fetches a higher price in the open market.



### About Tendu Leaves:

- Tendu (*Diospirus melanocaylon*) is also called 'green gold' and is a prominent minor forest produce in India.
- **Tendu leaves are used to make bidis**, an indigenous leaf-rolled cigarette made from coarse uncured tobacco, tied with a coloured string at one end.
- In 1964, the trade in tendu leaves was nationalised in then-undivided Madhya Pradesh. Until then, people were free to sell tendu leaves in markets across the country.
- Under this arrangement, the state forest department collects tendu leaves, allows their transportation and sells them to traders.
- **The tribals, after having obtained forest rights leases under the FRA 2006, now want to sell tendu leaves on their own, with the permission of Gram Sabhas and make good profits.**

**Source: Hindu**

## 7. Amyloidosis

### Topic: Health

**In News:** Former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf is suffering from Amyloidosis.

### More on the Topic:

- Amyloidosis is a rare disease that occurs when **an abnormal protein, called amyloid, builds up in one's organs**, affecting their shape and functioning.
- Amyloid deposits can build up in the heart, brain, kidneys, spleen and other parts of the body, leading to **life-threatening conditions like organ failure**.
- Amyloid **isn't normally found in the body**, but can be formed from several different types of proteins. Some varieties of amyloidosis occur in association with other diseases.
- These types may improve with treatment of the underlying disease. Some varieties of amyloidosis may lead to life-threatening organ failure.
- **Amyloidosis may be secondary to a different health condition** or can develop as a primary condition as well. Sometimes, **it is due to a mutation in a gene, but usually, the cause of amyloidosis remains unknown**.

Source: Indian Express

