

## 1. Citizenship

Topic: Polity and Governance



**In News:** Ministry of External Affairs has informed that Over 16 lakh Indians have given up Indian citizenship since 2011 including 183,741 this year (2022).

### More on the Topic

- The Ministry highlighted that the **individuals renounced Indian citizenship due to personal reasons**, which are unknown to the government.
- The Citizenship Act of India does not allow anyone to hold dual citizenship.
- As per the Passport Act, it is mandatory for all people having passports issued by the Government of India **to surrender their last passports to any of New Delhi's consular missions in foreign capitals or to the Regional Passport Offices of the MEA across the country immediately after acquisition of foreign nationality.**
- It is an offence under the Citizenship Act and the Passports Act for foreign nationals to hold Indian Passport.
- The government issues a certificate confirming renunciation of citizenship by an individual.

### Articles Related to Citizenship:

- **Article 5** - Citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution.
- **Article 6** - Rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan.
- **Article 7** - Rights of citizenship of certain migrants to Pakistan.
- **Article 8** - Rights of citizenship of certain persons of Indian origin residing outside India.
- **Article 9** - Persons voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign State are not to be citizens.
- **Article 10** - Continuance of the rights of citizenship.
- **Article 11** - Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law.

### The Citizenship Act (1955) Cluses related to Loss of Citizenship:



- The Citizenship Act (1955) provides for the acquisition and loss of citizenship after the commencement of the Constitution.
- The Citizenship Act (1955) prescribes **three ways of losing citizenship** whether acquired under the Act or before it under the Constitution, via, renunciation, termination and deprivation:
- **By Renunciation** - Any citizen of India of full age and capacity can make a declaration renouncing his Indian citizenship.
- When a person renounces his Indian citizenship, every minor child of that person also loses Indian citizenship.
- However, when such a child attains the age of eighteen, he may resume Indian citizenship.
- **By Termination** - When an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country, his Indian citizenship automatically terminates.
- This provision, however, does not apply during a war in which India is engaged.
- **By Deprivation** - It is a compulsory termination of Indian citizenship by the Central government:
  - If the citizen has obtained citizenship by fraud.
  - The citizen has shown disloyalty to the Constitution of India.
  - The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war.
  - The citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalization, been imprisoned in any country for two years.
  - The citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously.

Source: Indian Express

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## 2. National Party Status



**AAP'S PATH TO NATIONAL PARTY STATUS**

FOR THE AAP TO BE RECOGNISED AS A NATIONAL PARTY, IT NEEDS TO FULFIL ANY ONE OF THESE CRITERIA

**Secure six per cent** of valid votes in an Assembly election + four Lok Sabha seats

**Win two per cent seats** to Lok Sabha (11 seats in current House of 543 members) with its candidates elected from three different states

Recognition as a state party **in four different states**

**Topic: Polity and Governance**

**In News:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be recognized as a national party by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

**More on the Topic:**

- A national party needs to have two per cent of Lok Sabha seats in a minimum of three states. This means 11 seats. AAP has zero Lok Sabha MPs.
- There are only eight national parties recognised by the Election Commission of India as of now. They are BJP, Congress, National People’s Party, TMC, NCP, CPI, CPM, and BSP.
- The other criterion is that the aspirant must have state party recognition in four states. For state party recognition, a party needs six per cent votes/two seats in a state assembly election, or three seats if its vote share is less than six per cent.
- AAP has governments in Delhi and Punjab with huge mandates. In Goa, the party meets the six per cent votes/two seats requirement. Through recent election the party will become a state party in Gujarat.

**Benefits of Having National Party Status:**

- Recognition as a national or a State party ensures that **the election symbol of that party can't be used by any other political party in polls across India.**
- Recognized 'State' and 'National' party requires only **one proposer to file nomination.**
- The recognized 'state' and National Parties are given **two sets of electoral rolls free of cost by the Election Commission.**
- In addition to this the candidates contesting on the ticket of National or state party get a copy of the electoral roll free of cost during the general elections.



- The National parties receive **land or building from the government to establish their party office.**
- National parties can have **upto 40 star campaigners** while other can have upto 20 star campaigners.

Source: Indian Express

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### 3. Energy Conservation Amendment Bill



**Topic: Environment and Ecology**

**In News:** Parliament has passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.

#### More on the Topic:

- The Bill seeks **to amend the Energy Conservation Act, of 2001.**
- It promotes **energy efficiency and conservation.** The Bill empowers the Centre to specify **a carbon credit trading scheme.**
- The legislation also stipulates that **designated consumers may be required to meet a proportion of their energy needs from non-fossil sources.**
- **The Energy Conservation Code for buildings** will apply to office and residential buildings with a connected load of 100 kilowatt or above.

#### About Carbon Credit Trading Scheme:

- Carbon credit implies a tradeable permit to produce a specified amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse emissions.
- The central government or any authorised agency may issue carbon credit certificates to entities registered and compliant with the scheme.
- The entities will be entitled to trade the certificates.
- Any other person may also purchase a carbon credit certificate on a voluntary basis.

#### About Designated Consumers:

- Designated consumers include:
- (i) industries such as mining, steel, cement, textile, chemicals, and petrochemicals,

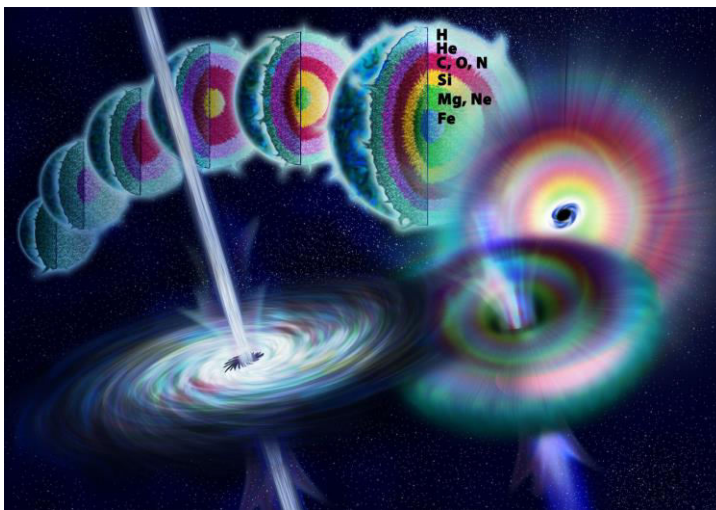
- (ii) transport sector including Railways, and
- (iii) commercial buildings, as specified in the schedule. Failure to meet this obligation will be punishable with a penalty of up to Rs 10 lakh. It will also attract an additional penalty of up to twice the price of oil equivalent of energy consumed above the prescribed norm.

**The Energy Conservation Code for buildings:**

- Under the Act, the energy conservation code applies to commercial buildings:
  - (i) erected after the notification of the Code, and
  - (ii) having a minimum connected load of 100 kilowatt (kW) or contract load of 120 kilo volt ampere (kVA).
- Under the Bill, the new Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code will also apply to the office and residential buildings meeting the above criteria.
- The Bill empowers the state governments to lower the load thresholds.
- The Act empowers **the central government to specify Energy Conservation Code for buildings.**
- The code **prescribes energy consumption standards in terms of area.** The Bill amends this to provide for an 'Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code'.

Source: Hindu

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## 4. Gamma Ray Bursts

**Topic: Science and Technology**

**In News:** Photometric observations taken with the 3.6 m Devasthal Optical Telescope have provided vital information on the earliest phase of a kilonova ever detected, radically changing the understanding of scientists about the origin of GRBs.

**More on the Topic:**

- GRBs are **powerful astronomical cosmic bursts of high-energy gamma-ray**.
- GRB emits more energy in a few seconds than our Sun will emit in its lifetime and has two distinct emission phases: the short-lived prompt emission (the initial burst phase that emits gamma-rays), followed by a long-lived multi-wavelength afterglow phase.
- The prompt emission (initial gamma-ray emission) of GRBs are automatically discovered by **space-based gamma-ray missions such as NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory, and India's AstroSat.**

**Kilonova of visible and infrared light with short-period GRBs:**

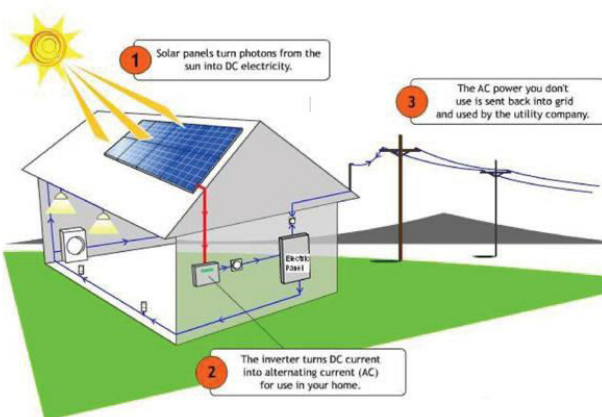
- In recent years, scientists have discovered a special phenomenon called a kilonova of visible and infrared light with short-period GRBs, also known as a potential source of gravitational waves.
- It has been hypothesized that **the heat produced by the radioactive decay of heavier elements may emit kilonova.**
- This process also produces **heavier elements, such as gold and platinum.**
- However, observing kilonovas at **near-infrared wavelengths is technically challenging,** and only a few telescopes on Earth, including the 3.6-meter Devasthal Optical Telescope of the **Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)**, can detect kilonova and gravitational wave objects at these wavelengths upto faint limits.

**Source: Indian Express**

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## 5. Rooftop Solar Programme

**Topic: Science and Technology**





**In News:** The Rooftop Solar Programme has been extended till 31.03.2026 and therefore, subsidy under the programme will be available until the target under the Programme is achieved.

**More on the Topic:**

- Solar technologies **convert sunlight into electrical energy** either through photovoltaic (PV) panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation.
- This energy can be used to generate electricity or be stored in batteries or thermal storage.
- A rooftop solar plant refers to one where the solar panels are mounted on top of a residential or commercial building.

**Solar rooftop subsidy scheme:**

- Solar rooftop subsidy scheme is an initiative by **Ministry of new and Renewable energy**.
- The central government through the solar rooftop subsidy yojana encourages use of renewable energy and provides subsidies on solar rooftop installations to consumers.
- The central government pays a **30% subsidy for installation of rooftop solar plants to states in general categories**.
- For special states such as **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Lakshadweep, the central government gives subsidies of up to 70%**.
- The process for installation of rooftop solar plants will start from **registering applications and then releasing the subsidy in residential consumers' (beneficiaries) bank accounts** after installation and inspection of the plant which can be tracked online at the national portal.

**Source: Business Standard**

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## 6. G20 Finance Track



### Topic: International Relations

**In News:** The first meeting of the Finance Track of the Group of Twenty (G-20) under India's leadership will start in Bengaluru.

#### More on the Topic:

- This meeting will be hosted jointly by the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India.
- The G20 Finance Track provides **an effective forum for global economic discourse and policy coordination.**
- It provides an effective forum for **global economic discourse and policy coordination.**
- The topics discussed will include reorienting international financial institutions to meet the shared global challenges of the 21st century, financing cities of tomorrow, managing global debt vulnerabilities etc.
- It will also focus on advancing **financial inclusion and productivity gains, financing for climate action and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, a globally coordinated approach to unbacked crypto assets and advancing the international taxation agenda.

**Source: Business Standard**

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## 7. Marine Cammando Force

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### Topic: Government Policies

**In News:** In a historic move, the Indian Navy has decided to allow women to be part of its elite special forces the Marine Commandos (Marcos).

#### More on the Topic:

- The historical move **will allow women will serve as commandos in any of the three defence services.**
- The historical move will allow women will serve as commandos in any of the three defence services.
- Until now, only men were allowed to be part of the Special Forces.
- MARCOS was raised in 1987. Exclusivity of the unit lies in its competence to operate in all three mediums namely Sea, Air and Land.
- The Army, Navy and Air Force have Special Forces comprising the toughest soldiers who have to undergo rigorous training to be able to conduct a swift and stealthy response in denied territories.

**Source: Business Standard**

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