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301. **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** implementation has drastically cut down the time taken for insolvency resolution. To further hasten this process, RBI has been empowered to initiate the insolvency resolution process in case of a default.
302. **The PSU bank recapitalization plan** worth ₹2.1trillion was a masterstroke. It addressed the capital needs of PSU banks while putting to rest any fear of any adverse impact on fiscal deficit through the usage of recapitalisation bonds. This will be a pivotal step to get the credit channels flowing as PSU banks account for 67% share of credit to industries.
303. **The National Logistics Plan:** India has kicked off an ambitious national logistics plan to allow seamless movement of inputs and finished goods across the country. Through the plan, the government aims to come out with the most cost-effective method to transport goods till 2035 to provide a competitive edge to the Indian industry. In a first-of-its-kind move, the newly setup logistics division in the commerce department is in talks with logistics providing ministries of railways, roadways, shipping, inland waterways and civil aviation besides the logistics using ministries including food.
304. **Raisina Dialogue:** is a top think tank ORF initiative of Ministry of External Affairs. It is held annually in New Delhi in January, since 2016. It is a forum on lines of Shangrila Dialogue in Singapore. The Theme for 2018 is 'Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms'. The theme is designed to explore the shifting dynamics within the global order. Over 500 delegates from over 86 countries will participate. It will be inaugurated and addressed jointly by the Prime Ministers of India and Israel. Foreign Ministers of Egypt and UAE and Minister of ocean economy, marine resources and shipping from Mauritius are key dignitaries. Top experts from Iran and China and top armed force personnel from USA, UK and Australia will address.

305. **Simultaneous Elections in India:** Simultaneous elections were held in 1952, 1957 and 1967. In 1971-72 the then Prime Minister de-linked the Lok Sabha elections from elections for state assemblies. After winning the 1971 Lok Sabha election, Congress announced separate elections for the state assemblies in 1972. This was not based on any popular demand. The arguments were that :

- a) the parliamentary elections are contested on 'national' issues and state polls on 'local' ones.
- b) the Constitution empowers the central government to 'dissolve' the state assembly and declare President's rule in case of any perceived breakdown of the constitutional system in a state.
- c) In view of dissolution of state government, there cannot be a fixed election calendar for simultaneous elections.

In 2018, there is the necessity of creating a national consensus on the matter of simultaneous elections by involving all stakeholders, including every regional and sub-regional political party and group. The task for Prime Minister Modi is to build such a consensus and then appropriately amend the provisions of the Constitution. Only after this the agenda of restoring 'simultaneous' elections be implemented.

(Source: Adapted from an article by C.P. Bhambri, in The ET Delhi, January 2018)

306. **The Supreme Court (SC) collegium**, created history by selecting Indu Malhotra as the first woman advocate to be recommended for appointment as a judge of the SC. The SC has had just six woman judges in 68 years. All six were elevated from high courts. Malhotra, 61, became in August 2007 the second woman lawyer to be designated as a senior advocate by the SC, three decades after the honour was first bestowed on Leila Seth, who went on to become the first woman chief justice of a high court. Seth was designated as a senior advocate in 1977.

307. **Right to Privacy as a Fundamental Right and Aadhaar:** a nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court has unanimously determined that the right to privacy is a fundamental right implicit in the Constitution, taking the Preamble and the fundamental rights spelt out in

Part III separately and together. But this does not mean that Aadhaar cannot exist. Fundamental rights are precious but not unconditional.

Article 15 guarantees against discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, etc. Yet, it is followed up with the qualification that this does not mean the state cannot carry out affirmative action.

This qualification immediately applies to Article 14's guarantee of equal treatment of all citizens by the state. Article 19 (1) (a) offers the right to free speech, but that is subject to considerations of national security, morality, public order, decency, friendly relations with foreign states. Similar considerations circumscribe Article 19(1) (b), which offers the right to assemble without arms. Freedom of conscience under Article 25 is subject to morality, public order and health, besides other fundamental rights. Article 21, which offers the right to life and liberty, and is one of the principal fonts of the right to privacy, can be constrained by the due process of law. If the Aadhaar law is found to contain due process, the fundamental right to privacy can coexist with Aadhaar.

The judgement also states that Breaching individual privacy would be perfectly justified in a number of cases ranging from the statistical to the epidemiological. For trading off this bit of privacy, society gets in return a huge benefit: more security for the savings that banks lend out and lower rates of interest for borrowers with a good credit history.

Aadhaar offers the promise of superior expenditure control and avoidance of welfare expenditure being cornered by the undeserving and the unscrupulous. It enables the migrant poor to establish identity wherever they are. But this benefit cannot justify any laxity in securing vital personal information gathered for Aadhaar.

The privacy judgment call for follow-up protective legislation: One, India must enact a law to delineate how, to what extent and to what end the state can breach the right to privacy and to hold those who do so to account, preferably by testifying to a committee of Parliament. Two, India needs a data protection law, to regulate the use of individual data by non-state agencies, to give individuals some degree of control over their data.

(Source: This short note has been adapted from article 'Cursor- Aadhaar and Privacy: Like Dal and Roti' by T.K.Arun, in The Economic Times Delhi edition 25.08.2017

308. Implications of Supreme Court's Privacy Judgement on Aadhaar.



All Eyes on Aadhaar

One of the biggest implications of the **SC judgement** will be on Aadhaar



A five-member SC bench will decide on the validity of Aadhaar in light of the order

Since the court has allowed for reasonable restrictions, Aadhaar linkage is likely to stay, for at least social subsidy schemes

Aadhaar has so far been issued to **117 crore** people; almost **3 crore** authentications happen each day through the number



Experts say govt may have to ask cos to set up servers and local offices in India to protect privacy

There may also be a deluge of litigation against govt and private agencies engaged in data collection

The ruling will impact private tech cos such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft which collect citizen data

Govt decision to link PAN cards with Aadhaar came under criticism and sparked litigations, leading to fast-tracking of the privacy bench judgement

AADHAAR USAGE



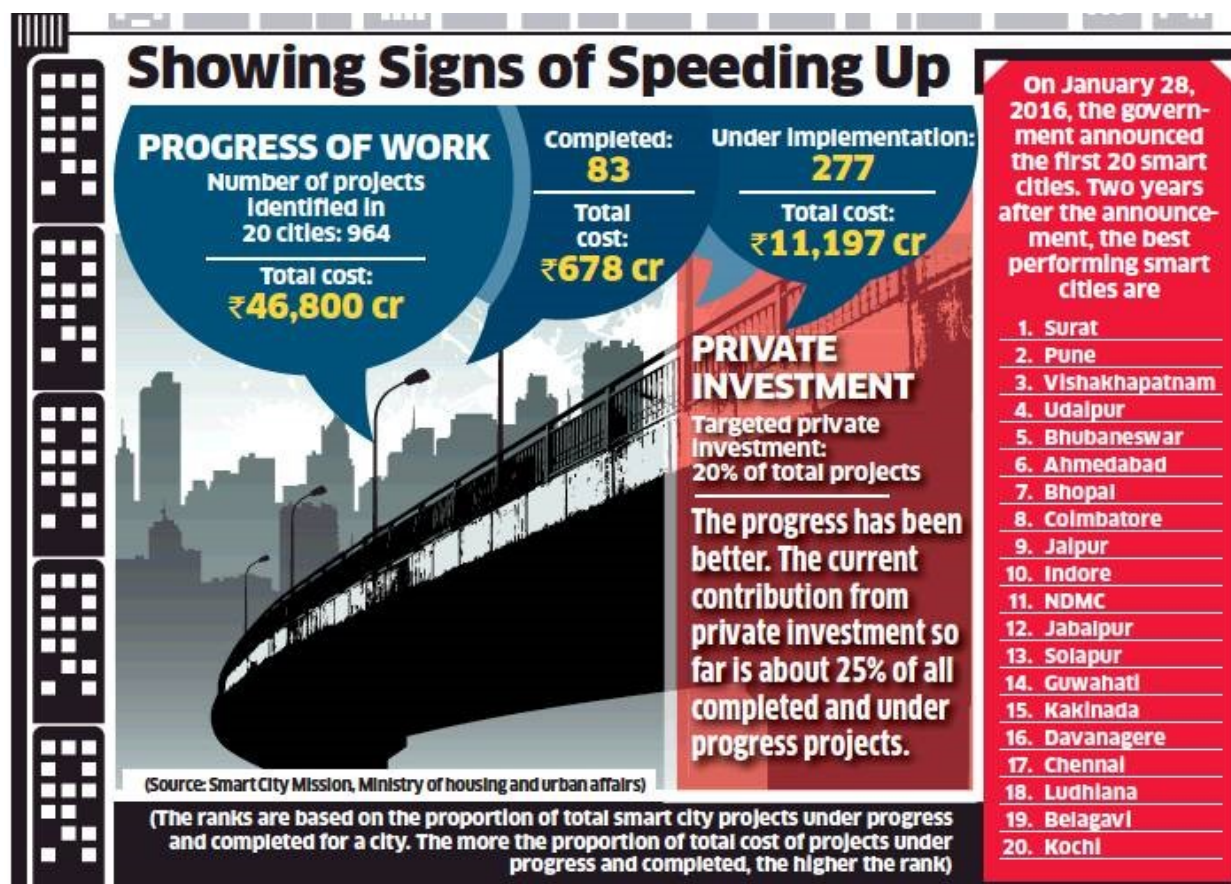
After Aadhaar Act was passed in Parliament in March 2016, the govt linked Aadhaar with a host of schemes

Recently, the govt made it mandatory for filing of I-T returns

All bank accounts have to be seeded with Aadhaar and all existing telecom connections have to be authenticated with the number

It has also been made mandatory for registration of death certificate from October 1

309. **The India Leadership Council** is an exclusive membership-based platform, with access only to the heads of businesses from corporations representing all industries, and aims to work towards the end goal of transforming India's business ecosystem through deliberations and candid exchange of ideas, setting macro agenda for scaling up businesses and driving change that would have a positive impact on business and the overall economy.
310. **Vision of New India by 2022:** Working towards economic transition of the country from a lower income nation to a higher income one involves a roadmap for the PM's vision of a New India by 2022 that includes:
- a) Building a country that's free of caste and religious differences, corruption and terrorism,
 - b) where all Indians have access to housing, electricity and water,
 - c) India needs massive urban development.
 - d) Employment for the country's growing young workforce.
 - e) Industry demands a voice in government policymaking.
 - f) Industry emphasized that the government should stick to its digital transformation drive to improve accountability and bring in transparency in the system.
311. **Progress on Smart Cities:** After winning the pan- India smart city competition on basis of the most innovative plans, the 20 cities opted for solar projects, improvement of water supply and smart roads.
- Almost all cities have planned command and control centres to control urban services like city-wide Wi-Fi network, safety and security, citizen feedback management, integrated traffic management, parking and other citizen services.
- Many cities have come up with innovative projects. For example Bhopal's bicycle sharing scheme. Envisaged as a feeder service to Bhopal's bus rapid transit system, the project comprises 12 km of dedicated bicycle tracks around 50 locations where bicycles are placed and from where they can be hired using a mobile app.



312. [The US Government has shut down](#) from 20.01.2018, after money for federal agencies ran out at midnight on Friday. Many US government employees were told to stay home or, in some cases, work without pay until new funding is approved. The last shut down was for 16 days October 2013.

Democrats say short-term spending legislation must include protections for illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children, known as “Dreamers”.

The Republicans, who have a slim 51-49 Senate majority, said they would not negotiate on immigration until the government was reopened. Current Senate rules require a super-majority of three-fifths of the chamber, usually 60 out of 100, for legislation to clear procedural hurdles and pass.

With elections set in November for a third of US Senate seats and the entire House of Representatives, both sides are maneuvering to blame the other for the shutdown.

313. 80% of **India's large dams** are over 25 years old, while as many as 170 are 100 years or older. India ranks third globally with 5,254 large dams in operation and 447 large dams under construction.

The national register of dams, maintained by the Central Water Commission, the nodal agency for dam construction, is often outdated or incorrect because it leans on inputs from states for this compendium. Many dams in Sikkim aren't listed. Hydroelectricity is cheap, but construction costs of big hydro and the costs associated with destruction of river ecosystems outweigh the benefits of hydroelectricity." The US alone has demolished 1,200 of them, 540 in the last decade, "Innovative methods such as pumped storage and integration of other renewable sources with hydro power to make dams financial viable Sardar Sarovar Dam inaugurated in September 2017, is the largest in the country. Its power is to be shared by three states. It is to supply water to 9,000 villages. The project was due for completion in the 1970s.

314. **Can ministers express their personal views in public without any sense of collective responsibility?**

In April 2017, the matter was referred to a three-judge bench to examine the pros and cons of high public functionaries commenting on sub-judice matters such as former UP minister who had commented on the Bulandshehar rape. If a minister speaks he must speak in line with government policy. If a minister speaks, he must ensure that he speaks in line with government policy or not at all. He cannot express personal views on an official matter.

Senior advocates Fali Nariman and Harish Salve, expressed concern over the abusive nature of public discourse on social media. They are assisting the court in the case and raised two issues on the matter.

a) One, the absence of civil rights in the Constitution which would define the rights of citizen A vis-à-vis citizen B. "Where are the rights of a citizen against another citizen? Can someone say that he has the right to air his views even though it violates another person's rights and dignity?"

- b) Two, cases in social media that involve a person's right to privacy. They are emanating not from the state but from non-state actors and other private individuals. Some protection is necessary in the globally inter-connected world.
315. **Impact of structural changes of 2017 in 2018:** Structural changes of
- a) GST, Demonetization, and Bank recapitalization in 2017.
 - b) Committee set up to recommend changes in direct tax framework.
 - c) Reforms in tax litigation are a critical priority.
 - d) Reforms in real estate sector are vital
 - e) Banking reforms
 - f) Starting and closing a business
 - g) Ease of doing business reforms are limited to certain areas.
 - h) Action needed on infrastructural bottlenecks, swift implementation of investment projects and restarting of stalled projects.
316. Factors that will have significant impact on Indian Economy in 2018:
- a) **Crude Oil prices**
 - b) Indian General Elections
 - c) Brexit
 - d) One Belt One Road
 - e) US tax reforms.
- India imports over 82% of its crude requirement and an increase by a single dollar means it inflates the country's net import bill by \$0.5 billion when factoring in Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell's estimates for FY 2017-18.
317. **TReDS is an online electronic institutional mechanism** that facilitates the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs through multiple financiers. The platform enables discounting of invoices of MSME sellers against large buyers through an auction mechanism that ensures prompt realization of trade receivables at competitive market rates. The total

PSU procurement from micro and small enterprises in 2013-14 was ₹12,000 crore, or 15% of the total. The Public Procurement Policy wants 20% of all procurement by PSUs to be made from MSMEs. These companies expect an annual volume of at least ₹20,000 crore, which is expected to grow once more MSME buyers and sellers join the platform.

318. The linking of the [Trade Electronic Receivables Discounting System \(TReDS\)](#) to the GST Network (GSTN) is expected to increase the usability of the platform, remove the problem of fake bills, and give a huge fillip to a market that has the potential to reach ₹20,000 crore. Invoice mart which is the Axis Bank-backed platform will have information for banks on MSME, based on invoices authenticated from GSTN public sector banks and corporates will be on boarded to TReDS and linked to GST, which is expected to result in mass formalization of the MSME sector and give banks access to cash flow information leading to prompt credit decision-making.

319. [Department of Investment and Public Asset Management \(DIPAM\)](#). There has been a paradigm shift from disinvestment to investment management. The proposed Debt ETF will help develop corporate debt market and that strategic sale should not be linked only with raising revenue. which is creation of value in enterprises for growth and economic activity. Iso pushing CPSEs (central public sector enterprises) to go for business expansion including mergers and acquisition. The merger between HPCL-ONGC is creation of enterprise value. We are looking to unlock the value of CPSEs, which is reflected through four IPOs (initial public offerings) done this fiscal after a gap of five years. CPSE index has also performed better than Sensex and Nifty in the last two-three years. The idea is that true economic potential of these companies, which have now come of age, should be unlocked with more investment, technology and management, and probably true expansion of their activity can only be exploited through privatisation route. Strategic disinvestment has been restarted after a gap of 12 years. India's corporate debt market is not very deep but in the last three years around 15 CPSEs

have entered the market for raising Rs 3 lakh crore, and traded volume of CPSE bonds in last three years is Rs 7.5 lakh crore. all CPSEs don't enter bond markets because they cannot calibrate their issuances and their offerings are very small. They have been borrowing from banks at much higher rates than they could have through the bond market. DIPAM, through this proposed ETF, will pool their borrowing requirement and stagger them in months, aggregating their borrowing strength and need. This will be a well-defined product, which will frequently hit the market, create much higher volume and liquidity, and the borrowing rate will also be lower for CPSEs.

320. **Unified Financial Regulator** for International Financial Services Centre (IFSC): The concept of a Unified Financial Regulator is simple but powerful as a catalyst by creating a conducive regulatory framework that is benchmarked globally. It tries to create a level playing field for the IFSC to compete globally.

A changing global financial services landscape is indicated by the trend toward integrating the different supervisory functions of banking, insurance, investment, into a single agency to manage the global financial services. It provides an integrated and undivided means to ease of doing business.

In a short span, after the announcement of a competitive tax regime in the Union Budget 2016, banking Units of Banks operating within GIFT, IFSC, have already carried out transactions worth \$8 billion. The insurance business at the IFSC has reported sum insured of \$20 billion and the Capital Market is witnessing daily transactions of around \$350 million.

321. The Reserve Bank of India on Monday issued new directives for resolution of bad loans under which resolution plan needs to be completed within 180 days for loans above ₹2,000 crore failing which lenders will file insolvency application, singly or jointly, under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC). Besides further tightening of both reporting and resolution norms, the central bank also withdrew

the existing schemes for resolution of stressed assets such as Framework for Revitalising Distressed Assets, Corporate Debt Restructuring Scheme.

322. **National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)** is to cover 10 crore poor households, or 50 crore people, for hospital care. Every family would get a yearly cover of ₹5 lakh for free treatment. One estimate puts the insurance premium at ₹2,000 a family a year, taking the cost to ₹20,000 crore, of which a slice would be borne by states.

This US' model based **purely insurance-driven model** is not ideal. A better way is for government to spend money prudently to buy private care, and shift steadily to Accountable Care model.

The private care model will work well even for the quasi-universal healthcare scheme. This would require paying a per-capita amount upfront to the hospital to take care of patients, and reward doctors and hospitals for outcomes. As the care providers must ensure quality outcome from their fixed per-capita fee, there will be no incentive on their part to inflate costs.

A cooperative model where the group pays a small premium and the insurer acts like the fund-manager is one option. Leverages can be curbed if the group is empowered and made to pay a marginal share of the premium.

There is a need to move concurrently on many fronts. Emphasizing only tertiary care will not do. There should be no zero-sum game. Technology and data must be used. Drugs procurement must be done in bulk to get volume discounts.

323. **Lease of Chabahar Port to India for 18 months from February 2018:** Chabahar Port lies just 90 km from Gwadar Port in Pakistan. It gives India a strategic foothold in the region on the transit route between India, Iran and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. It will also give India transit to Central Asia, Russia and other parts of Eurasia.

Iran is leasing to India a part of the area of the multipurpose and container terminal for 18 months to take over operations of existing port facilities in the first phase of the port development project. India has committed \$85 million for the development of the Shahid Beheshti Port. The first phase was inaugurated by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in December 2017.

324. **Formalization of India's Economy:** From demonetization to GST, formalization of the economy has been a constant. With 80% of the workforce engaged in the cash-heavy informal sector, the attempt has been to integrate them into the country's economy.

What constitutes a formal sector? The Economic Survey 2018 defines formal employment as, one, where the employers are providing some kind of social security (like EPF and health or life insurance) to their employees, and, two, where firms are part of the tax net.

According to the first definition based on social security, 31% of India's non-agricultural workforce, 75 million out of an estimated at 240 million, have formal employment.

According to the employers-in-the-tax-net definition, 54% (or 127 million) of the non-agricultural workforce is in the formal sector.

Mudra loans (up to ₹10 lakh) are disbursed for non-agricultural activities, including dairy, poultry and beekeeping.

India is expected to have a billion people aged between 15 and 64 years of age by 2027, which means the world's largest and youngest workforce. As the economy progresses, millions of people employed in low productivity farm sector will have to be moved to higher-productivity non-farm jobs, in an environment of Brexit and de globalisation where export barriers are set to rise.

325. **New Industrial Policy 2018**, after IP 1956 and 1991: The new policy will subsume the existing national manufacturing policy of 2011. Its focus is to be on finding ways to gainfully employ over 1.2 crore youth who enter

the workforce every year, apart from checking future job losses that may arise due to Industry 4.0.

- a) **First**, the policy is likely to **introduce self-certification** and third-party certification to reduce G2B (government to business) interfaces. **A single ID** is proposed for all G2B services. The idea is to strengthen ease of doing business and reduce compliance costs for the industry. This will boost private investments and entrepreneurship, thereby creating more jobs.
- b) **Second**, the new industrial policy is expected to embed provisions that will give weightage to the quality of foreign direct investment (FDI), with a preference to investments that are expected to create local value additions and, thus, jobs.
- c) **Third**, the policy may have provisions for rationalization of electricity cost for industries; the exact modalities will be finalized after inter-ministerial consultations.
- d) **Fourth**, the policy may incentivise research and development with the objective of positioning India as a test bed for emerging technologies and creating an environment for ease of innovation. The policy is likely to have provisions under which the government will share risks with small and medium entrepreneurs by co-investing in research. Also, it may encourage free movement of researchers between public sector research bodies and industries, apart from relaxing restrictions on non-resident Indians (NRIs) in certain research areas.
- e) **Fifth**, there could be emphasis on “M” in the SME (small and medium enterprises) sector. The government may help in the branding of products, mainly produced by mid-sized firms. The policy envisages :
 - a) **Re-visiting the categories of employment** under the existing labour laws to create flexibility.
 - b) new employment category called “independent employee” which will be between a consultant and a full-time employee

- c) supports extending the provisions of permitting fixed-term employment, as against permanent workforce, to all sectors
- d) Fixed-term employment was introduced in apparel manufacturing industries under the Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act vide notification dated October 7, 2016.

326. **Transfer-of-Technology for submarines:** The ecosystem of building submarines in India has got into top gear through the Scorpene programme. The level of absorption of technology by MDL has proved to be successful. On the third Scorpene submarine (Karanj) the construction was done entirely by MDL. It also demonstrates the success of Transfer-of-Technology.

327. **Highest level meetings between India and China** after Dokolam: India's PM has visited China four times between 2014 to 2018:

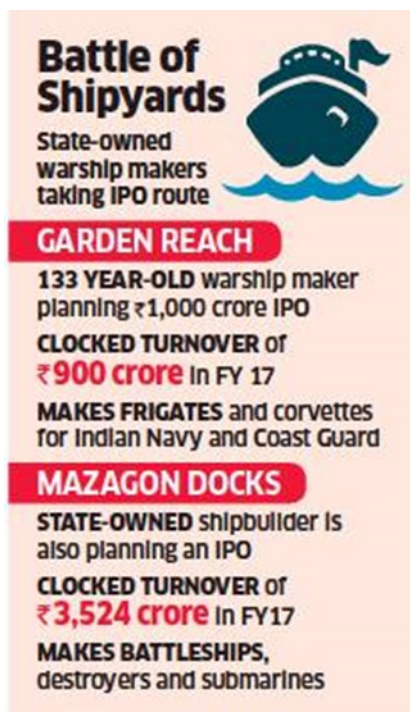
- a) On a bilateral visit in 2015.
- b) For the G-20 Summit in 2016.
- c) The BRICS Summit in 2017.
- d) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in June 2018.

President Xi Jinping visited India once as President, in September 2014. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank meet to be held in Mumbai in May 2018, could also witness a high-level visit from China either by President Xi Jinping or Premier Li Keqiang.

328. **Should elections be held simultaneously to reform the electoral malpractices?**

1. The arguments in favour of simultaneous elections are :
 - a) Reducing the cost associated with multiple elections.
 - b) Less disruption of the work of the civil servants and security forces mobilised to secure polling booths.
 - c) More distanced elections are also supposed to help governments to focus on governing, rather than on their next electoral battle.

- d) Curb the circulation of black money that fuels electoral life
 - e) Tampering down the populism associated with elections: sops, subsidies and nonproductive public schemes.
 - f) Lastly, they would help governments to take unpopular but necessary reforms and decisions
2. Electoral politics in India is fueled by black money, but its root cause is not the electoral calendar. The current system of party funding is totally opaque and conducive to malpractices.
 3. Holding simultaneous elections may alter the pace of the dark funding of India's political life, but it won't impact the necessity of using black money to fund it. Rather, the high cost of entry into politics, the competitiveness of elections, the corruption associated with getting tickets, and the necessity for most parties to select self-funding candidates, contribute to the centrality of black money in electoral politics.
 4. Therefore, making party funding transparent is one electoral reform needed to adopt for curbing this, and to make party funding transparent.
329. [About Garden Reach Shipyard, Kolkata](#): Garden Reach is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence. It is a 133-year-old company that was nationalised in the 1960s. It has shipbuilding facilities in Kolkata and Ranchi and has built and supplied nearly 700 vessels to carry men and material and for surveillance of the coast line, according to its annual report. It had an order book of ₹21,500 crore as in March 2018. The Government of India has decided to bring out an IPO in respect of 15% of its stake holdings in Garden Reach.



330. Ten Investigative Agencies of India:

OTHER THAN CEIB AND DGGI, EITHER GATHER ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE OR INVESTIGATE, OR DO BOTH

- 1 Enforcement Directorate. Year of Establishment: 1956
Administrative Ministry: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. MANDATE: To investigate and prosecute money laundering offences and confiscate proceeds of crime under PMLA. Enforces provisions of FEMA and take action against persons or entities involved in international hawala transactions
- 2 CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Year of Establishment: 1963 Administrative Ministry: Department of Personnel. MANDATE To investigate economic offences and important conventional crimes such as murders, kidnapping, terrorist crimes, etc., on a selective basis. To undertake the role in international cooperation relating to mutual legal assistance and extradition matters.

- 3 NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU Year of Establishment: 1986 Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs
MANDATE: To coordinate actions by Central and state government offices under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act 1985, Customs Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Act. To undertake counter measures against illicit drug traffic under international conventions and protocols.

- 4 FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT: Year of Establishment: 2004 Administrative Ministry: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. MANDATE: To analyse and disseminate information relating to suspect financial transactions. To collect cash transaction reports, suspicious transaction reports, counterfeit currency reports and non-profit organisations' transaction reports, mainly through banks.

- 5 NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU. Year of Establishment: 1986. Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs. MANDATE: To function as a repository of information on crime and criminals To assist investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.

- 6 CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES (DG-Investigation) Year of Establishment: 1963. Administrative Ministry: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. MANDATE: To deal with investigations to detect tax evasion and carry out operations such as surveys and searches. To create deterrence against tax evasion.

- 7 STATE POLICE AGENCIES (Economic Offences Wings) Year of Establishment: Different years for different states

- Administrative Ministry: State governments. MANDATE: To operate specialised units within each state police to combat economic offences To investigate serious economic offences and those having inter-state ramifications, and guide district police on matters related to financial crimes
- 8 DIRECTORATE OF REVENUE INTELLIGENCE Year of Establishment: 1953 (as Central Revenue Intelligence Bureau) Administrative Ministry: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. MANDATE To collect, analyse and disseminate information (mainly smuggling) that violate customs laws, and guide investigation and prosecution To keep liaison with foreign countries, Indian Missions, INTERPOL (through CBI) on anti-smuggling matters.
- 9 SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE Year of Establishment: 2003 Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs. MANDATE To detect and prosecute white collar crimes, frauds. To investigate complex cases of interdepartmental ramifications and those with public interests mainly in monetary misappropriation.
- 10 NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY: Year of Establishment: 2008 Administrative Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs MANDATE To investigate and prosecute scheduled offences, in particular offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, including financing of terrorism To maintain a database of all terrorist-related information and share it with the states and other agencies.