

## Current Affairs of the Day

### PAPER 1:

#### ➤ Geography:

1. About Mediterranean Sea

### PAPER 2:

#### ➤ Polity & Governance:

1. Police, public order, Central cadre under J&K L-G

#### ➤ International Relations:

1. EU urges Turkey to stop Mediterranean drilling

### PAPER 3:

#### ➤ Environment & Biodiversity:

1. UN Secy.-Gen. Guterres flays India's coal subsidy

#### ➤ Defence:

1. V. Ramagopal Rao Committee constituted

## Police, public order, Central cadre under J&K L-G

### New rules for administration in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K):

- The Union Home Ministry on Friday notified new rules for administration in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) that specify the functions of the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) and the Council of Ministers.
- According to the transaction of business rules, “police, public order, All India Services and anti-corruption” will fall under the executive functions of the L-G, implying that the Chief Minister or the Council of Ministers will have no say in their functioning.
- The rules notified by Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla say that proposals or matters which affect or are likely to affect peace and tranquillity or the interest of any minority community, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes “shall essentially be submitted to the Lieutenant Governor through the Chief Secretary, under intimation to the Chief Minister, before issuing any orders”.
- The Council of Ministers, led by the CM, will decide service matters of non-All India Services officers, proposal to impose new tax, land revenue, sale grant or lease of government property, reconstituting departments or offices and draft legislation.
- However, in case of difference of opinion between the L-G and a Minister, when no agreement could be reached even after a month, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor shall be deemed to have been accepted by the Council of Ministers.
- On August 6, 2019, Parliament read down Article 370 of the Constitution revoking the special status of J&K and bifurcated and downgraded the State into the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, with the former having a Legislative Assembly.
- The erstwhile State has been under Central rule since June 2018 and the elected Assembly was dissolved in November the same year. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while introducing the legislation in Parliament last year, said J&K’s Statehood would be restored soon.



- J&K has been without a Chief Minister since June 2018. According to the requirements of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, fresh elections will be held after the delimitation exercise is completed next year.
- The rules state that “any matter which is likely to bring the Government of the Union territory into controversy with the Central Government or with any State Government” shall, as soon as possible, be brought to the notice of the L-G and the CM by the Secretary concerned through the Chief Secretary.

### 39 departments:

- Under the rules, there will be 39 departments in the UT, such as school education, agriculture, higher education, horticulture, election, general administration, home, mining, power, Public Works Department, tribal affairs and transport.
- The rules say all communications received from the Centre, including those from the Prime Minister and other Ministers, other than those of a routine or unimportant character, shall, as soon as possible after their receipt, be submitted by the Secretary to the Chief Secretary, the Minister in charge, the Chief Minister and the L-G for information.

## UN Secy.-Gen. Guterres flays India's coal subsidy

### Key Points:

- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday criticised India for subsidising fossil fuels and promoting coal auctions. Mr. Guterres was delivering the 19th Darbari Seth Lecture, organised by the Delhi-based The Energy Resources Institute (TERI).
- “Clean energy and closing the energy access gap are good business. They are the ticket to growth and prosperity. Yet, here in India, subsidies for fossil fuels are still some seven times more than subsidies for clean energy. Continued support for fossil fuels in so many places around the world is deeply troubling,” Mr. Guterres said in a pre-recorded message. “Recent research on G20 recovery packages shows that twice as much recovery money has been spent on fossil fuels as clean energy. In some cases, we are seeing countries doubling down on domestic coal and opening up coal auctions.”



- The UN Secretary-General, however, commended several of India's commitments to clean energy, including the initiative on the International Solar Alliance, plans for a World Solar Bank that would mobilise ₹70 trillion of investments in solar projects over the coming decade and, commitment to installing 500,000 MW of renewable energy by 2030.

### Significance:

- Mr Guterres' criticism of coal auctions at the event, which was presided over by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, is significant in the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's launching of the auction of 41 coal blocks for commercial mining earlier this year as part of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.
- Mr. Modi had said the launch marked not only the implementation of reforms in the coal sector but also the creation of lakhs of jobs and would liberate the sector from decades of "lockdown". The government has decided to spend ₹50,000 crore on creating infrastructure for coal extraction and transport, which would also create job opportunities for locals closer to their homes, he said.

## EU urges Turkey to stop Mediterranean drilling

- The European Union on Friday urged Turkey to halt its drilling activities in contested waters in the Mediterranean and ordered EU officials to speed up work aimed at blacklisting some Turkish officials linked to the energy exploration.



### Value Added Information

#### About Mediterranean Sea:

The Mediterranean Sea is a sea connected to the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by the Mediterranean Basin and almost completely enclosed by land: on the north by Southern Europe and Anatolia, on the south by North Africa, and on the east



by the Levant. The sea is sometimes considered a part of the Atlantic Ocean, although it is usually identified as a separate body of water.

The countries with coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea are

1. Albania
2. Algeria
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Croatia
5. Cyprus
6. Egypt
7. France
8. Greece
9. Israel
10. Italy
11. Lebanon
12. Libya
13. Malta
14. Morocco
15. Monaco
16. Montenegro
17. Slovenia
18. Spain
19. Syria
20. Tunisia
21. Turkey

In addition the Gaza Strip ("Palestine" has been associated with the geographical area that currently covers the State of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) and the British Overseas Territories of Gibraltar and Akrotiri and Dhekelia have coastlines on the sea.

## V. Ramagopal Rao Committee constituted

- A five-member expert committee has been constituted by the Chairman of DRDO.
- **Objective:** To review and redefine the charter of duties for all laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Focus:** Indigenous development of futuristic technologies.
- **Head of the committee:** Professor V. Ramagopal Rao, Director, IIT, Delhi.