



## Current Affairs of the Day

### GS Paper - II

- Government hikes poll spend ceiling by 10%
- China opposes India-Taiwan trade ties

### GS Paper - III

- Hybrid model of 'smart' fence being tested along the LoC



## Government hikes poll spend ceiling by 10%

**Prelims: Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act.**

**Functions and Responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.**

The Law Ministry has increased the ceiling on poll expenditure for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections by 10%. The move follows



a recommendation by the Election Commission in view of curbs imposed during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The notification on Monday will help candidates contesting the Bihar Assembly polls and by-polls to 59 Assembly seats across 11 States and one LS seat.

### State-wise ceiling

1. The ceiling on poll expenditure varies across States, with candidates in Assembly elections in bigger States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu now allowed to spend up to ₹30.8 lakhs as against ₹28 lakhs earlier.
2. For a candidate contesting a Lok Sabha poll in these bigger States, the revised ceiling on poll expenditure is now ₹77 lakh instead of the earlier amount of ₹70 lakh.
3. Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and a few Union Territories, based on the size of their constituencies and population, have a lower ceiling on poll expenditure. Here while the enhanced ceiling for a Lok Sabha candidate is now ₹59.4 lakhs, those contesting an Assembly seat can spend up to ₹22 lakhs in these small states. The last time the expenditure ceiling was enhanced was in 2014 just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.



## China opposes India-Taiwan trade ties

**GS II: Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests**

**Bottom line:** China claims 'One-China principle is a universal consensus of the international community'

China on Tuesday asked India to approach ties with Taiwan "prudently and properly", and said it would "firmly oppose" any official exchanges between New Delhi and Taipei.



### Highlights

1. The statement from China's Foreign Ministry came in response to reports that India and Taiwan were considering going forward with talks on a trade deal.
2. India and Taiwan in 2018 already signed a bilateral investment agreement. India-Taiwan trade ties have expanded since, and Taiwanese firms are prominent investors in India, although India and Taiwan do not maintain formal diplomatic relations.

### Chinese statement

1. The 'One-China principle' is a universal consensus of the international community, including India.
2. It is also the political basis for China to develop ties with other countries. So, they firmly oppose any official exchanges between countries having diplomatic ties with China and Taiwan or signing any official documents.

### Prelims:

1. One-China principle: Taiwan and China
2. One country Two systems: Between China one side and Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions on the other side. Britain and Portugal, who were running Hong Kong and Macau, respectively, returned them to China in 1997 and 1999 respectively.



3. It was formulated in the early 1980s by Deng Xiaoping during negotiations with the United Kingdom over Hong Kong. He suggested that there would be only one China, but that these regions could retain their own economic and administrative systems, while the rest of Mainland China uses socialism with Chinese characteristics. Under the principle, each of the two regions could continue to have its own governmental system, legal, economic and financial affairs, including trade relations with foreign countries, all of which are independent of those of the Mainland. The PRC has also proposed to apply the principle in the unification it aims for with Taiwan.
4. The geographical location of the mentioned places

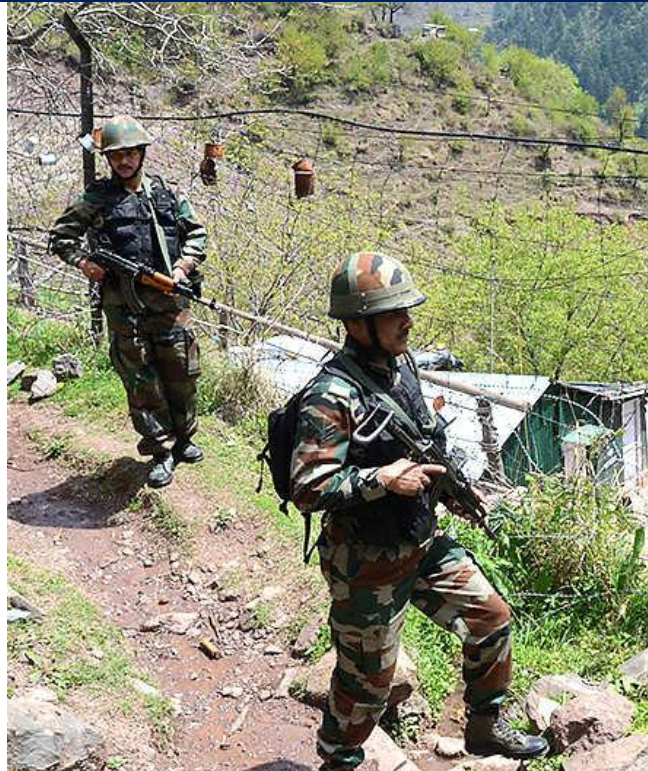
## Hybrid model of 'smart' fence being tested along the LoC

### GS III: Security Challenges and Their Management in Border Areas

**Crux:** Hi-tech sensors will be added to the existing fence.

#### Highlights

1. The Army has significantly improved its electronic surveillance along the Line of Control (LoC) to check infiltration, and work on converting the existing border fence into a smart fence integrated with several sensors is underway.
2. However, there is a rethink on converting the entire fence over a 700 km stretch into a smart one due to the high cost. A hybrid model is now being adopted. The fence will be integrated with LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) sensors, infrared sensors and cameras among others.





3. The new hybrid model of the smart fence being tested will cost around ₹10 lakh per km and 60 km is being attempted this year. This has some rudimentary updates.
4. The earlier proposal for a hi-tech fence was to cost around ₹10 crores for 2.4 km. A ₹10 crore type trial was done in the Army's 19 Division last year, but it was too expensive so no more contracting was done.
5. In recent months, the Army has beefed up troops close to the LoC to plug gaps and it has resulted in a drop in infiltration this year. While the multi-tier anti-infiltration grid remains in place, the first tier has been strengthened. Troops have also been given drones, both big and small, to monitor the ground.

#### **Prelims:**

1. BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) inaugurated last year.
2. The CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System) on the India-Bangladesh border which has been implemented since 2016.