

## Current Affairs of the Day

### GS II

- On Nepal, India prefers to watch from sidelines
- Chinese delegation in Nepal for dialogue with rival NCP factions
- Afghan peace talks set to resume in Doha: official
- 'Inner-Line Permit is Centre's biggest gift to Manipur'

### GS III

- 'Measures being taken to ensure fair prices for farm produce'

## On Nepal, India prefers to watch from sidelines

### Highlights:

1. Within just seven months, the disposition of Nepal's top leadership towards New Delhi has undergone a complete turnaround. On the one hand, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, who was on a collision course with the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing it of territorial hegemony, has considerably softened his tone and courted high-level visits from India towards the end of 2020.
2. On the other hand, his rival in the unified Nepal Communist Party, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, or Prachanda, who was seen as sympathetic to India's cause, is now clearly seeking China's intervention in the current political crisis in Nepal, sparked by Mr Oli's dissolution of Parliament's lower house.
3. In another turnaround, China, which used to stay aloof from internal politics, has shown its hand in the current crisis, while India, which is often accused of instigating instability in the Himalayan nation, is watching the situation, albeit closely, from the sidelines.

## Chinese delegation in Nepal for dialogue with rival NCP factions

### Highlights:

1. A high-level diplomatic team led by vice-minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, Guo Yezhou, arrived in Kathmandu on Sunday to hold a dialogue with the two factions of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP).
2. The Chinese team is in Kathmandu to try and broker a truce between the Oli and the Prachanda-Nepal factions of NCP, which appears like a challenging task in the backdrop of the dissolution of the Pratinidhi Sabha (House of Representatives).

## Afghan peace talks set to resume in Doha: official

### Highlights:

1. The next round of negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government will be held in Qatar from next month.



28.12.2020 Monday



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2. Meanwhile, Mr Ghani (Afghan president) and some other top Afghan officials immediately called for the next round of meetings to be held in Afghanistan.
3. “It is not appropriate to insist on holding talks in luxurious hotels. It is necessary that the people see how the talks happen, which issues are focused on and why,” Mr Ghani said.

## ‘Inner-Line Permit is Centre’s biggest gift to Manipur’

### Highlights:

1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Inner-Line Permit (ILP) had been the Centre’s biggest gift to Manipur since its statehood.
2. Implemented under the British-era Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, the ILP is an official document issued to let an Indian citizen enter a protected area for a limited period. Pressure groups in the northeast view this permit as a shield against the entry of illegal immigrants.

### Background:

A concept drawn by colonial rulers, the Inner Line separated the tribal-populated hill areas in the Northeast from the plains. To enter and stay for any period in these areas, Indian citizens from other areas need an Inner Line Permit (ILP). Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram are protected by the Inner Line, and lately, Manipur was added. The concept originates from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.

The policy of exclusion first came about as a response to the reckless expansion of British entrepreneurs into new lands which threatened British political relations with the hill tribes. The BEFR prohibits an outsider’s — “British subject or foreign citizen” — entry into the area beyond the Inner Line without a pass and his purchase of land there. On the other hand, the Inner Line also protects the commercial interests of the British from the tribal communities.

After Independence, the Indian government replaced “British subjects” with “Citizen of India”. The main aim of the ILP system is to prevent settlement of other Indian nationals in the States where the ILP regime is prevalent, in order to protect the indigenous/tribal population.



28.12.2020 Monday



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Who Issues ILP?

The concerned state issues ILP. It can be obtained by applying online or directly from the government office. The ILP card indicates travel dates and also specifies the specific areas in the state that an ILP holder can travel.

## 'Measures being taken to ensure fair prices for farm produce'

### Highlights:

1. The cooperative sector in Rajasthan has been playing an important role in the agricultural activities of farmers.
2. The State government has notified 550 village cooperative societies as well as agricultural cooperative marketing societies as mandi sub-yards for ensuring fair prices and expeditious payments to farmers.
3. They can now sell their produce at one of the notified markets near their agricultural land and village. Open bidding has also fetched them a better price.
4. The State government has announced the disbursement of loans against the stored produce of farmers at a nominal interest rate of 3% to ensure that they are not forced to sell the farm produce and are still able to meet their financial needs.
5. Efforts are being made to make expensive equipment available on lease at affordable prices. Village cooperative societies and agricultural marketing cooperative societies are being associated with custom hiring centres and ₹8 crores has been sanctioned for opening these centres at 100 cooperatives.
6. New village cooperative societies have also been formed across the State. They will help the farmers access loans, purchasing fertilisers and other activities at their own village panchayat.