



# drishti

## News Analysis (06 Jul, 2020)

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### New Bhutanese Territory Claimed by China

#### Why in News

Recently, China has made new territorial claims in the **eastern sector of Bhutan's Trashigang district**.

#### Dividing line

A brief overview of the boundary dispute between China and Bhutan

- Bhutan and China have no formal diplomatic relations but have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016
  - Talks concentrated on north and west Bhutan regions
  - Eastern Bhutan not part of the talks
- so far, say officials
- Sakteng sanctuary is situated close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh
  - In June 2020, China attempted to stop UNDP-GEF funding for Sakteng by claiming it was disputed, but was overruled



#### Key Points

- **Territorial Claim of China:**

- China made this claim at an online meeting of the **58<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council**, while objecting to the funding request to develop the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary project in eastern Bhutan.
  - However, GEF cleared the funding to the project after Bhutan protested against the Chinese claims.
  - Set up in 1992, GEF is a US-based global body to finance projects in the environment sector.
- According to China, the **Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the China-Bhutan disputed areas which is on the agenda of China-Bhutan boundary talk.
- China claims that the **boundary between China and Bhutan has never been delimited**. It has had disputes over the **eastern, central and western sectors** of Bhutan.

- **Bhutan's Position:**

- **Bhutan totally rejected the claim made by China**. It said that Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is an integral and sovereign territory of Bhutan.
  - Also, Sakteng Sanctuary in the past too has received such grants, including in 2018-2019, for a project on preventing soil erosion, without any objection from China.
- Bhutan has conveyed its position to China through its embassy in New Delhi—since both countries don't have embassies in each other's countries.
  - Bhutan and China **do not have any formal diplomatic relations**, both the countries conduct their diplomatic communication through their missions in Delhi.
- China and Bhutan have a dispute in **only two sectors of the border**, one in the **north (central) – Pasamlung and Jakarlung**, and second in the **west – Doklam**.
- There has been **no mention of eastern Bhutan, or Trashigang district**, where Sakteng is based, **in 24 previous rounds of boundary negotiations** held between the two countries between 1984 and 2016.

- **Concerns for India:**

- China's new territorial claim is a part of the larger Chinese tactics of putting pressure on India's smaller neighbours, to punish them for any closeness to India.

In 2017 China had intruded into **Doklam plateau**, which is claimed by Bhutan, leading to a standoff between Indian and Chinese Armies.

- China might be doing this to put a pressure on India, or to divert India's attention from its **aggression at Ladakh**.
- Sakteng is situated along the border with Arunachal Pradesh, some part of which is also claimed by China.
- Even after the **India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty** of 2007, Indian military is virtually responsible for protecting Bhutan from the kind of external threat that the Chinese military poses.
  - According to the **India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 1949**, Bhutan allowed India to "guide" its foreign policy and defence affairs.
  - However, the 1949 treaty was amended in 2007 to respect the sensitivities of Bhutan regarding its sovereignty.
  - Under the India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty of 2007, the two sides have agreed to cooperate closely with each other on issues relating to their national interests.

Neither Government shall allow the use of its territory for activities harmful to the national security and interest of the other.

- China has said that a third party should not point fingers in the China-Bhutan border issue, which is an apparent reference to India.

## Way Forward

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- Bhutan has protested against Chinese territorial claims in eastern Bhutan and said that it will also contest in future if China refers to the territory as disputed.
- Safety of Border from China is a concern for both India and Bhutan. Therefore, both sides need to work together on this issue.

## **Source: IE**

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## Non-State Actors in Nagaland

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Governor of Nagaland R.N. Ravi** wrote a letter to the state's **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio**.

- The letter highlighted that the **legitimacy of the constitutionally-established State government is being challenged** on a daily basis by **armed gangs** that question the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.
- Mr. Ravi was appointed as the **Centre's interlocutor for the Naga peace process** in August 2014 for his hold on the affairs of the northeast.

## Key Points

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- **Various Taxes Imposed by Non-State Actors:**
  - The letter pointed out the **issue of 'taxes' levied by armed gangs or parallel governments** as well as the **cost escalation of development and infrastructure** projects in the state due to the system of handing over a part of the project cost to these armed gangs for the projects to be executed.
  - The extremist groups have been collecting **'taxes' or 'donations'** from people in their areas of operation **before and after the ceasefire agreement** with the NSCN (IM) in mid-1997.
- **Reactions:**
  - The Working Committee of the **Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs)**, a **conglomerate of seven extremist groups**, denied indulging in extortion.
  - **NSCN (IM) insisted that it does not extort people** but levies **'genuine taxes'** which have been the source of sustenance bringing the Naga political movement this far.
    - It held that it is the inherent right of any sovereign people and nation to collect taxes from the people and commercial establishments and the right was legitimately acknowledged by the earlier interlocutors and Indian authorities.
  - The Chief Minister objected to the Governor's reminder of **Article 371A (1)(b)** of the Constitution. He said that **terming the organisations as 'armed gangs' may not be congenial to the achievement of lasting peace**, which is the desire of both the Central and the state governments.

## Article 371A

- The **Acts of Parliament** relating to the following matters **would not apply to Nagaland unless decided by the State Legislative Assembly:**
  - Religious or social practices of the Nagas.
  - Naga customary law and procedure.
  - Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law.
  - Ownership and transfer of land and its resources.

- **Article 371A (1)(b):** The Governor of Nagaland shall have **special responsibility for law and order in the state** so long as internal disturbances caused by the hostile Nagas continue. In the discharge of this responsibility, the Governor, after consulting the Council of Ministers, exercises his individual judgement and his decision is final. This special responsibility of the Governor **shall cease when the President so directs.**
- The Governor has to **ensure that the money provided** by the Central Government for any specific purpose **is included in the demand for a grant relating to that purpose** and not in any other demand moved in the State Legislative Assembly.

## Chronology

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- **1917:** NSCN (IM) mostly **comprises the Nagas of Manipur** but it has its **roots** in the conscription of around **2,000 Nagas by the British as labourers and porters** for salvage work and road-building in **France** in 1917 during the times of **World War I** (1914-18).
- **1918:** The Nagas who returned in May-June 1918 formed the **Naga Club**, along with some educated locals in October that year. The club **aroused a sense of Naga nationalism.**
- **1929:** The club submitted a memorandum to the **Simon Commission**, stating that the Nagas should be left alone to ‘determine for themselves as in ancient times’.
- **1946:** The club metamorphosed into a political organisation called the **Naga National Council (NNC)**, which campaigned for sovereignty and secession of the Naga Hills (then a district of Assam) from India.
- **1947:** Nagas declared **independence on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1947.**
- **1951:** A **referendum** organised by the NNC in May 1951 showed that **99% people had supported an independent Nagaland.**
- **1952:** The NNC’s movement intensified after it **boycotted the 1952 general election.**
- **1956:** In March 1956, it formed a **parallel government** and hoisted the flag of the republic.
- **1960:** The intensity of the armed movement lessened with the signing of the **16-Point Agreement** between the Centre and a group of the people’s representatives in 1960.
- **1963:** Nagaland achieved **statehood in December 1963.**  
Nagaland was formed out of the **Naga Hills district of Assam** and the **then North East Frontier Agency (NEFA)** province (now Arunachal Pradesh).

- **1975:** The movement was going on intermittently and hopes of peace were raised when the Centre signed the **Shillong Agreement** with a moderate faction of the NNC in 1975.

However, a dissident group led by Muivah, Swu and Khaplang, who had been trained in China, rejected the pact outright.

- **1980:** After going underground and spending their time in Myanmar, they formed the **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)** in January 1980.
- **1988:** NSCN **split into the NSCN (IM) and the NSCN (K)** in April 1988 due to differences over initiating a dialogue process with the Indian government.
- **1997:** NSCN (IM) received a proposal from New Delhi for peace talks and a **ceasefire agreement was signed.**
- **2001:** NSCN (K) also followed the suit but it **unilaterally abrogated the ceasefire in 2015.**

However, at least three of its breakaway factions formed the NNPGs to join the peace process in 2017.

## Demand for Greater Nagalim

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- The NSCN (IM), **dominated by the Tankhuls of Manipur**, has held more than 100 rounds of peace talks with the Centre within and outside the country.
- One of its most contentious demands was the **creation of a unified Naga homeland**, called '**Greater Nagalim**' by integrating the Naga-inhabited areas of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal with Nagaland.
- The **other north-eastern States are opposed to the idea** of the pan-Naga homeland and are wary of the Framework Agreement the NSCN (IM) leaders **signed at the Prime Minister's residence in August 2015.**

The contents of the agreement have not been revealed.

## Way Forward

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- Nagas are culturally heterogeneous groups of different communities/tribes having a different set of problems from the mainstream population.
- In order to achieve the long-lasting solution, their cultural, historical and territorial extent must be taken into consideration.
- Therefore, any arrangement to be worked out should lead to social and political harmony, economic prosperity and protection of the life and property of all tribes and citizens of the states.

**Source: TH**

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## Use of Winter Diesel in Ladakh

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## Why in News

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Recently, the **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has sought approval from the **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)** for the **use of winter diesel** by armed forces for operations in **high altitude areas such as Ladakh**.

The **winter diesel** was introduced as a **technological solution by the IOC in 2019** in high-altitude sectors like Ladakh, Kargil, Kaza and Keylong, which face the problem of freezing of diesel in their vehicles in **extreme weather conditions**.

## Key Points

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- **Winter Diesel:**
  - It is a **specialised fuel** specifically for **high altitude regions and low-temperature regions** such as Ladakh, where ordinary diesel can become unusable.
  - It also meets the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** specification of **BS-VI** grade.
- **Characteristics:**
  - **Low Viscosity:** It contains additives to maintain **lower viscosity** by enabling the **fuel to remain fluid** in such conditions.
    - **Regular diesel** fuel contains **paraffin wax** which is added for improving viscosity and lubrication. At low temperatures, the paraffin wax thickens or “gels” and hinders the flow of the fuel in the car engine.
    - The viscosity of a fluid is a **measure of its resistance** (due to internal friction) to deformation thereby maintaining the state of being thick and semi-fluid in consistency.
    - **Paraffin wax** is a **soft colorless solid** derived from **petroleum, coal or shale oil** that consists of a mixture of hydrocarbon molecules.
  - **Low Pour Point:** It has a **low pour point (as low as minus 30-degree celsius)**. It is the **temperature below which** the liquid loses its **flow characteristics**.
    - The flow characteristics of **regular diesel change** at low temperatures and using it may be detrimental to vehicles.
    - Earlier, the IOCL provided the **Diesel High sulphur Pour Point (DHPP -W)** to armed forces, which also has a pour point of -30°C.
  - **Higher Cetane Rating:** It has a **higher cetane rating** — which is an indicator of the combustion speed of diesel and compression needed for ignition.
  - **Lower Sulphur Content:** It would lead to **lower chemical deposits in engines** and better performance.

- **Significance:**

- **Border Tensions with China in Ladakh:** It is expected that demand for the winter fuel may rise due to the border tensions in the **Galwan valley in Ladakh** for the patrolling purposes.
- **Boost to Local Economy:** Supply of the special fuel to Ladakh would reduce the hardships faced by the local people for **transportation and mobility** during winter months, therefore facilitate the local economy and tourism.
- **Curb in Air Pollution:** Before the launch of winter diesel, consumers in such areas were using kerosene to dilute diesel to make it usable, which leads to more air pollution.

Now use of **winter diesel would replace use of Kerosene** therefore helping in the **reduction of air pollution**.

## Indian Oil Corporation Limited

- Commonly known as Indian Oil it is an **Indian government-owned oil and gas company (Maharatna Status)** which was founded in 1959.
- **Headquarter:** New Delhi
- It is the **largest commercial oil company** in the country .
- **Functions:** It operates in the entire hydrocarbon value-chain, including refining, pipeline transportation, marketing of petroleum products, exploration and production of crude oil, **natural gas and petrochemicals**.
- **Subsidiaries:** It has subsidiaries in Sri Lanka (Lanka IOC), Mauritius [IndianOil (Mauritius) Lt]) and the Middle East (IOC Middle East FZE).

## Directorate General Quality Assurance

- The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) is under the Department Of Defence Production, **Ministry of Defence**.
- The organisation provides **Quality Assurance (QA)** cover for the entire range of Arms, Ammunitions, Equipments and Stores supplied to Armed Forces.

## Source: IE

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## Friends of Police in Tamil Nadu

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### Why in News

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Recently, the services of Friends of Police (FOP) has been suspended in Tamil Nadu.

### Key Points

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- The move came after a controversy over FOP volunteers being engaged in beating of P. Jayaraj and his son J. Benicks, which led to their **death in custody**.
- The FOP is a **Community Policing initiative** that aims to bring police and public closer. It was **started in 1993** in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.
  - FOP helps to **promote crime awareness** among the people and enables prevention of crimes. It imparts fairness, transparency and impartiality in the working of police.
  - Volunteers can apply for FOP following minimum criteria like no political affiliation or criminal background, etc.
- **Issues Involved:**
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tamil Nadu Police Commission Report, 2008 has said that the FOP scheme is not evaluated by an independent body and its usefulness is doubted by a section of people.
  - It has also mentioned that some undesirable persons enroll themselves under the FOP scheme and misuse the position.
- **Suggestion:** The 2008 police report had recommended that the FOP scheme should be modified as **Citizen Volunteers Scheme**.  
It mentioned that the effort of Police must be to develop such a bond with the public that **all citizens are friends of Police, and not only a designated few**.

## Community Policing

- The Basic Principle Underlying Community Policing is that **‘A Policeman is a Citizen with Uniform and a Citizen is a Policeman without Uniform’**
- It is defined as a law enforcement philosophy that allows police to continuously operate in the same area in order to create a stronger bond with the citizens living and working in that area.
- It helps in **reducing the trust deficit between police and public** as it requires the police to work with the community for prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of public order, and resolving local conflicts, with the objective of providing a better quality of life and sense of security.
- Examples of Community Policing in India are:
  - **Janamaithri Suraksha Project:** Kerala
  - **Joint Patrolling Committees:** Rajasthan
  - **Meira Paibi:** Manipur
  - **Community Policing Project:** West Bengal
  - **Maithri:** Andhra Pradesh
  - **Mohalla Committees:** Maharashtra

## Way Forward

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- Any volunteers under the Community Policing should be allowed to help police, but not to take the role of police. The criminal background of the volunteers must be checked before their deployment.
- Community policing is a **philosophy, not a program**. If the philosophy of community policing is not understood by all of those that are involved, then the programs will not succeed. The biggest obstacle that community policing and the community-based programs have to face is the idea of change. Officers have to change the concept of policing and citizens have to be willing to accept that change.

**Source: IE**

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## Demand for Compulsory Licencing of Remdesivir

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### Why in News

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Recently, the CPI (Marxist) party has suggested that the government shall issue **compulsory licences for the manufacturing of a generic version of Remdesivir** which is being used to treat **Covid-19** patients.

Generic medicines and vaccinations are copies of originally researched drugs, but at much lower prices.

### Compulsory Licensing

- Compulsory Licensing (CL) allows governments **to license third parties** (that is, parties other than the patent holders) to produce and market a patented product or process without the consent of patent owners.
- Any time **after three years from date of sealing of a patent**, application for compulsory license can be made, provided:
  - Reasonable requirements of public have not been satisfied;
  - Patented invention is not available to public at a reasonably affordable price;
  - Patented inventions are not carried out in India.
- Compulsory Licencing is regulated under the **Indian Patent Act, 1970**.
- The **Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement)** does not specifically list the reasons that might be used to justify compulsory licensing. However, the **Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health** confirms that countries are free to determine the grounds for granting compulsory licences, and to determine what constitutes a national emergency.

### Key Points

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- **Background:**
  - Remdesivir is developed to **treat Ebola and related viruses.**
  - According to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the drug helps to **prevent Covid-19 viral replication.** It has the best potential and can be used in high doses without causing toxicities.
  - It has been observed that the USA has bought the **entire stock of Remdesivir for the next three months.** It will therefore **not be available for the rest of the world.**
    - **Vaccine nationalism** occurs when a country manages to **secure doses of vaccine for its own citizens or residents** before they are made available in other countries.
    - It is done through **pre-purchase agreements** between a government and a vaccine manufacturer.
  - Also, the manufacturing firm of the drug Remdesivir has a **patent monopoly** and thus **charging a price that is hundreds of times its original cost.**
- **Proposals:**
  - With the USA buying up all the stocks of the drug and high cost may cause **unavailability of the drug** for other countries including India.
  - Thus, the party has suggested the government invoking Clause **92 of the Patent Act (1970)** that allows it to issue **compulsory licences.**
    - Clause 92 of the Patent Act states that the Central Government in **circumstances of national emergency or in circumstances of extreme urgency can issue the compulsory licenses** for any patent in force.
    - It can be issued at any time after the sealing thereof to work the invention by notification in the Official Gazette.
  - The issuance of compulsory licences **will allow** Indian manufacturers to produce a **more affordable generic version.**

## Way Forward

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The government should work towards breaking the patent monopoly as access to medicine especially during this pandemic time is one of the fundamental rights (Right to Health under Article 21) of every person in the country.

**Source:TH**

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## More Metallic Moon: NASA

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## Why in News

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Recently, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** (NASA) has found evidence of **greater quantities of metals** such as iron and titanium on the **Moon's subsurface**.

The metallic distribution was observed by the **Miniature Radio Frequency (Mini-RF) instrument** aboard the **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter** (LRO) spacecraft.

### **Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter**

- It is a NASA moon mission that has been in **operation since 2009**.
- The mission particularly focuses on the moon's poles to **search for water or ice** that could **exist in permanently shadowed craters**.

### **Miniature Radio Frequency Instrument**

It is one of the two radar instruments launched to the moon to **map the lunar poles, search for water and ice** and **to demonstrate future NASA communication technologies**, under the **Mini-RF project**.

- The first instrument, launched on the **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) **Chandrayaan-1** spacecraft, mapped both polar regions of the Moon.
- The second instrument, currently flying on NASA's LRO, has been mapping the **different geologic units of the lunar surface**.

### **Key Points**

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- The LRO's Mini-RF instrument was measuring **dielectric constant** within lunar soil in crater floors in the Moon's northern hemisphere.
  - **Dielectric constant, an electrical property, is the ratio of the electric permeability of a material to the electric permeability of a vacuum.**
  - Dielectric properties are **directly linked to the concentration of metal minerals**.
- The level of this property increased while surveying larger craters and kept rising in crater sizes up to 5 km in diameter. Beyond that size, the value of the dielectric constant leveled off.
- It raised the possibility that the dielectric constant increased in larger craters because the meteors that created them dug up dust containing iron and titanium oxides from beneath the Moon's surface.

- The Mini-RF findings were backed by **metal oxide maps** from the **LRO Wide-Angle Camera**, **Japan's Kaguya mission** and **NASA's Lunar Prospector spacecraft**, which showed that larger craters with their increased dielectric material were also richer in metals.

The metal oxide maps suggested that more quantities of iron and titanium oxides were dug up from 0.5 to 2 km below the Moon's surface as compared from the first 0.2 to 0.5 km.

- **Significance:**
  - If the findings are proven to be true, it would imply that there are **large quantities of iron and titanium oxides** beyond a few meters of the Moon's upper surface.
  - The finding could **aid in drawing a clearer connection between Earth and the Moon.**
- NASA has now undertaken further research to find whether the **same relation between metal deposits and crater size holds true on the southern hemisphere** of the Moon.

## Connection with Moon Formation

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- A **Mars-sized protoplanet collided** with the **newly formed Earth** around **4.5 billion years ago**, breaking off its piece that went on to become a satellite.
- The hypothesis is backed by substantial evidence, such as the **close resemblance between the Moon's bulk chemical composition with that of Earth.**
- However, scientists have been trying to explain **how Earth's crust has fewer amounts of iron oxide than the Moon.** Now, the new discovery of even greater quantities of metal on the Moon makes the process more difficult.
- A possible reason could be that the Moon was **created from a material much deeper beneath Earth's surface** than was believed before, or that the **newly found metal presence could be the result of molten lunar surface cooling down** gradually.

**Source: IE**

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## Rise in Food Grain Offtake by States

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### Why in News

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The **food grain procurement by states has risen** sharply due to **relief measures** being implemented in the wake of the **Covid-19 pandemic.**

The **total amount of rice** utilised by the States and Union Territories (UTs) from the **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** under the Centre's various schemes is **192.34 lakh tonnes in 2020** as compared to **90.71 lakh tonnes in 2019**.

## Key Points

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- **Reasons:**

- **Increased Entitlements:**

- After the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was announced that **Priority Household (PHH)** and **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders** in the country would receive **free entitlement of 5 kg per person per month**, initially for three months (April to June) and **now extended up to November 2020**.

This was in addition to their entitlement under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013**.

- The Centre has also announced a scheme for providing wheat and rice to ration cardholders **not covered under the NFSA or Non-Priority Household (NPHH) cardholders** at the rate of Rs. 21 per kg and Rs. 22 per kg respectively.

This has been used by Tamil Nadu to provide additional entitlement of rice to about 85.99 lakh such cardholders.

- **Needs of Migrants Labourers:** Aimed at addressing the requirements of **migrant labourers** who were not covered under the NFSA or any scheme of the States, the central government announced one more scheme i.e. **distribution of free food grains at 5 kg per person per month for May and June**.

- **Related Data:**

- The data by FCI has revealed that the **seven States** i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Maharashtra Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka **availed over 60%** of the total quantity of rice during the pandemic.
- As for **wheat**, the rate of increase in offtake was not so high (around 30%). Compared to 59.45 lakh tonnes lifted in the three months of 2019, it was 78.16 lakh tonnes in 2020.

**Rajasthan** had drawn the **highest quantity of 14.84 lakh tonnes** of wheat followed by Uttar Pradesh which has drawn 14.01 lakh tonnes.

## National Food Security Act

- The enactment of the **National Food Security Act (NFSA) on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013** marks a paradigm shift in the approach to **food security** from welfare to a rights based approach.

- The Act legally entitled **upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population** to receive subsidized food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System.
- Under it, the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY - launched in 2000) households**, which constitute the poorest of the poor, **continue to receive 35 Kgs** of foodgrains per household per month.
- Households having **Priority Households (PHH) ration cards** are issued **8 kgs i.e. 5 and 3 Kgs of rice** monthly per beneficiaries at the rate of Rs.3 and Rs.15 respectively.
  - 5 kgs is Central Scheme under National Security Act-2013 and 3 kgs is the state scheme.
  - It targets the poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as **landless laborers, marginal farmers and wage earners of the informal sections** of the economy.

**Source: TH**

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## 244th Independence Day of USA

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### Why in News

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The **USA** celebrated the **244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Independence Day** on **4<sup>th</sup> July 2020**.

Indian Prime Minister also congratulated the USA on the same occasion.

### Key Points

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- **Background:**
  - Throughout the **1760s and early 1770s**, the American colonies found themselves **increasingly at odds with British imperial policies** regarding taxation and frontier policy.
  - When repeated protests failed to influence British policies the Continental Congress worked with local groups, originally intended to enforce the boycott, to coordinate resistance against the British.
  - British officials throughout the colonies increasingly found their authority challenged by informal local governments, although loyalist sentiment remained strong in some areas.
  - Finally, the United States was founded on an **ideal of democracy** on the **4<sup>th</sup> July 1776** by adopting the **Declaration of Independence** from the **13 colonies**.

- **Declaration of Independence :**

- The Declaration of Independence was a **one-page document**, but it laid the **foundation** for other documents that followed, including the **Constitution and the Bill of Rights**.
- It contains **three main ideas**:
  - All men are created equal.
  - All men have certain inalienable rights, which include life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
  - People have a civic duty to defend these rights for themselves and for others.

**Source:TH**

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## Article 78

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Prime Minister of India briefed the President** on ‘issues of national and international importance’.

- The meeting took place against the backdrop of **border tensions with China**, economic crisis and the **Covid-19** situation.
- **Article 78** of the Constitution deals with the **duties of the Prime Minister** with respect to the **furnishing of information to the President**.

### Key Points

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- As per Article 78, following are the duties of the Prime Minister:
  - To communicate to the President all decisions of the **Council of Ministers (CoM - Article 74)** relating to the administration of the affairs of the union and proposals for legislation;
  - To furnish such information relating to the administration of the affairs of the Union and proposals for legislation as the President may call for; and
  - If the President so requires, to submit for the consideration of the CoM, any matter on which a decision has been taken by a Minister but which has not been considered by the CoM.
- **Article 167** of the Constitution is a **corresponding article in the state executive**.

**Source: IE**

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