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1. Geography

GI Tags in News

CHAK- HO - Black Rice of Manipur



Gorakhpur Terracotta- Uttar Pradesh



Kovilpatti Kadalai Mittai - Tamil Nadu



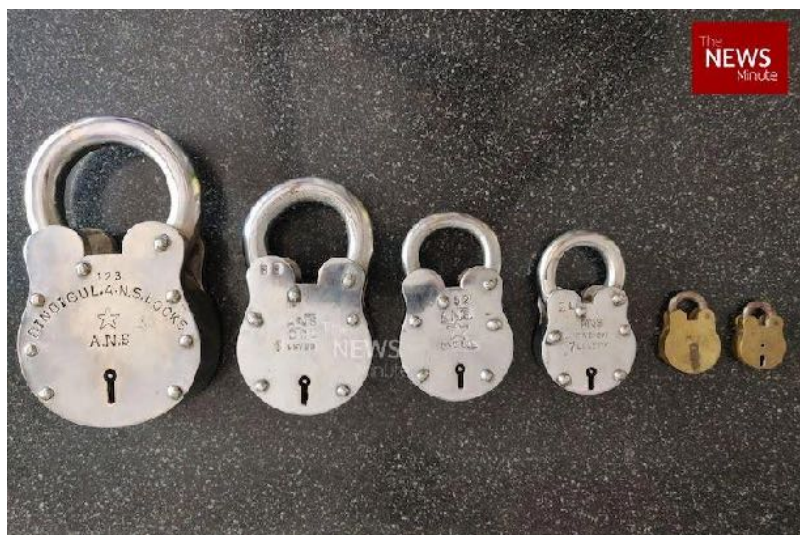
Sohrai Khovar Painting - Jharkhand



Telia Rumal - Telangana



Dindigul Locks - Tamil Nadu





Kandangi Sarees – Tamil Nadu

MIZO PUANCHEI - Mizoram



KANDHAMAL HALDI – Odisha



Channapatna Toys - Karnataka



Question for Practice

Which of the following GI Tags is/are matched correctly?

1. Shahi Lichi : Bihar
2. Gholvad Sapota : Maharashtra
3. Kadaknath Chicken : Madhya Pradesh

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. All of the above

2. History

5 Important terms Jainism and UPSC

Sallekhana - Samlehna - Santhara

- Supplementary vow to ethical code of conduct of Jainism.
- Religious practice of voluntary fasting to death by gradually reducing the intake of foods and liquids.

Nigoda

- Jaina doctrine recognizes four main forms of existence –
 - ✓ **Gods** (deva)
 - ✓ **Humans** (manushya)
 - ✓ **Hell beings** (naraki)
 - ✓ **Animals and plants** (tiryanca).
- The Animal and plant category is further sub-divided into smaller sub-categories on the basis of their sense faculties.
- The lowest category comprises the single-sense bodies (ekendriya).
- The lowest of these are the nigodas, tiny organisms that only have one sense, that of touch.
 - ✓ Their life lasts a fraction of a second.
 - ✓ The nigodas are supposed to be all over the place, and they also inhabit the bodies of plants, animals, and people.
- Above the nigodas, slightly higher in the scale, are single-sense organisms that inhabit the various elements (sthavara).
 - ✓ They are known as the earth bodies, water bodies, fire bodies, and air bodies.
 - ✓ Plant beings are higher in the scale – although they only have one sense, that of touch, they have a more complex structure and a longer life.
- Animals are still higher, as they have two to five senses.
 - ✓ Those that have all five senses are classified into ones that are totally dependent on instinct and ones that have powers of reasoning.

Ankantavada

- One of the most distinguishing feature of Jainism was the concept of anekantavada.
- It means that the truth can be viewed from Aneka or various angles. The reality has an infinite number of aspects and attributes.

Syadavada

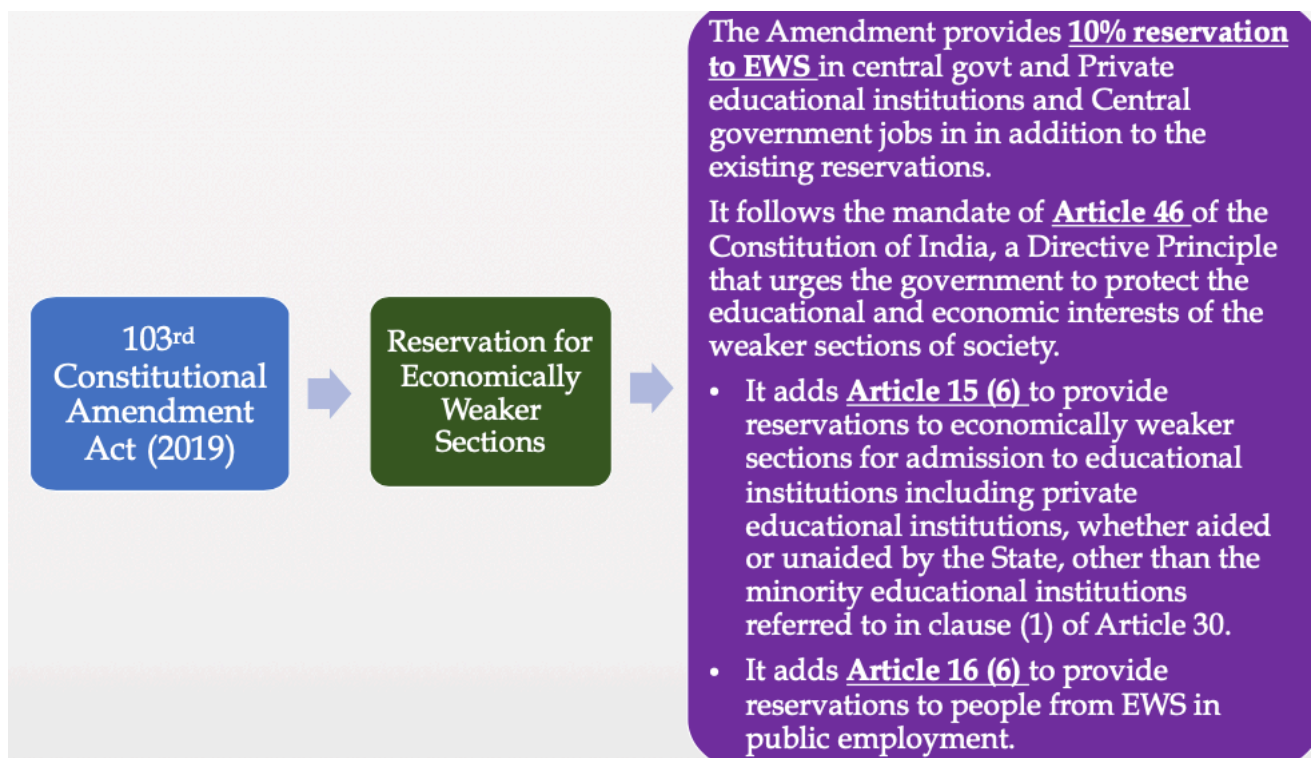
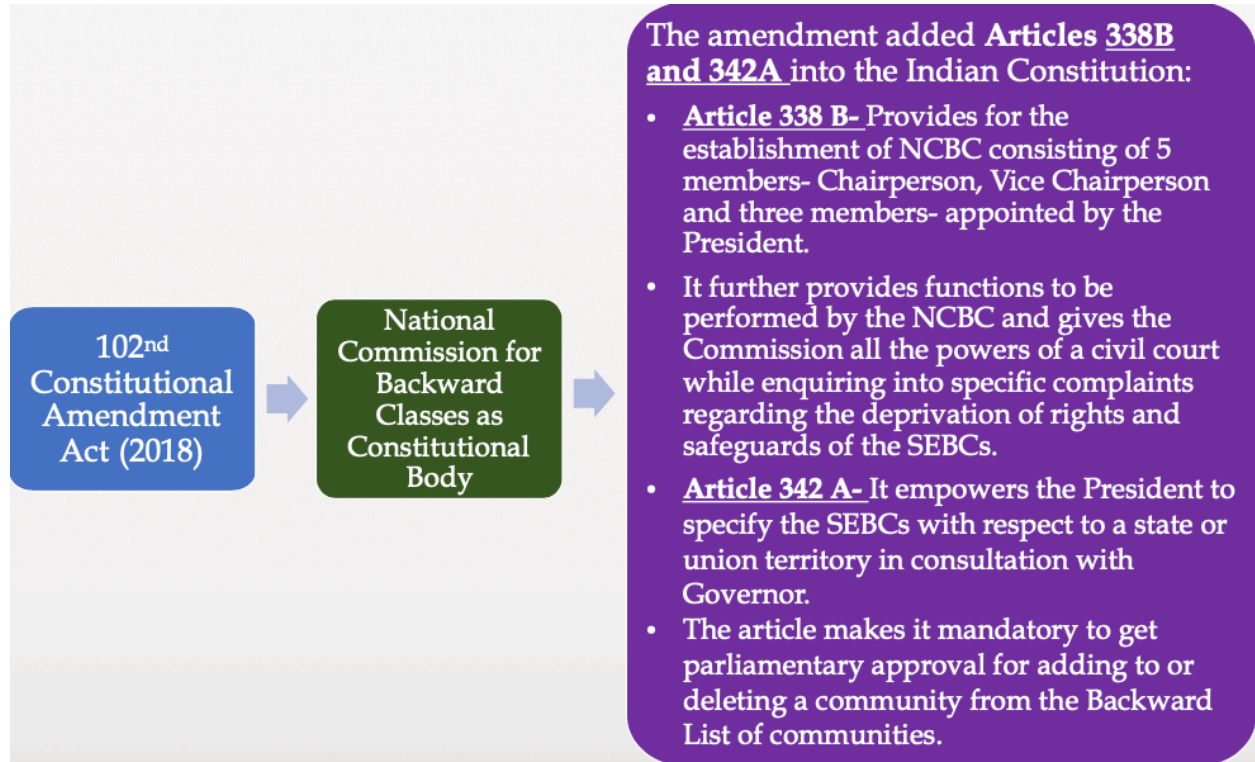
- One of the most distinguishing feature of Jainism was the concept of Syadavada.
- The Jaina doctrine of Syadvada asserts that statements must be made with caution, keeping in view that they cannot be absolute and that opposite statements are possible and seven modes of prediction (Saptabhangi) are possible.
- The doctrine of Syadvada shows a close affinity with Samkhya system of philosophy.
- The idea of creation in Jainism is that the world was never created. It is eternal. Its existence is divided into an infinite number of cycles, each consisting of a period of improvement (utsarpini), and one of decline (avasarpini). We are now in the phase of decline, which is divided into six periods.
- Jainas do not, therefore, believe in the existence of a Creator. In each period of utsarpini and avasarpini there are 63 salak purush (great being/soul) and in phase of each salak purush there are 24 Tirthankaras and 12 chakravarti (great king)

Sthanakavavasi

- One of the sub-sects of Shvetambaras.
- The sect was founded by a Jaina monk name Viraj in the 18th century.
- The sect rejected image worship and insisted upon strict adherence to the teachings of Mahavira.
- They denounced the worship of the images of the Thirthankaras and the construction of temples to house them.
- Followers of this sect are known as Sthanakavasis, because they assemble in ordinary unadorned buildings, called sthanakas or prayer halls instead of in elaborately constructed and well decorated temples and places of worship.
- They are also known as dhundiya (finders) and sadhumargis (followers of the ascetic path). Except for the image worship, many of their practices resemble those of the murtipujakas.

3. Polity & Governance

Revising Recent Constitution Amendment Acts and practice MCQs



104th
Constitutional
Amendment
Act (2019)



Reservation of
seats for SCs
and STs in
Legislature



The amendment deals with Article 334 of the constitution.

It extends the deadline for the cessation for the reservation of seats for members from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies by a period of 10 years.

It does not, however, extend the period of reservation of the 2 Lok Sabha seats reserved for members of the Anglo-Indian Community and thus the practice of nominating two members of the Anglo-Indian community by the President of India under the recommendation of the Prime Minister of India was effectively abolished.

105th
Constitutional
Amendment
Act (2016)



Amends
provisions
added by 102nd
amendment act



The amendment act amends clauses 1 and 2 of Article 342A and also introduce a new clause 3. It further amends the Articles 366 (26c) and 338B (9).

- The Amendment clarifies that states can maintain the "state list" of OBCs as was the system before the Supreme Court judgement on 102nd CAA.
- The "state list" will be completely taken out of the ambit of the President and will be notified by the state assembly.
- Articles 366 (26c) defines socially and educationally backward classes.
- The amendment to 338B (9) exempts states and union territories from the requirement of consulting NCBC for matters related to preparation of their list of socially and educationally backward classes.

1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct ones:

- 1. Adding or deleting a community from Central Backward list of communities requires approval of the President.**
- 2. The preparation of state list of OBCs requires consultation with the National Commission for Backward Classes.**

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

2. Consider the following statements regarding reservation for EWS and mark the correct option:

- 1. Under the 103rd amendment act it is not compulsory for state governments to provide reservation to the EWS in appointment to State government jobs and admission to State government educational institutions.**
- 2. It derives its mandate from Article 21 (A) in Fundamental Rights which provides for Right to Education for one and all.**
- 3. It is available only for the persons not covered under the scheme of reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs.**

- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 1 only
D. 3 only

4. Economy

Financial Stability and Developments council

What is FSDC

- Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India.
- Idea: A super regulatory body
- Was conceptualised by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008
- 2010: Then Finance Minister of India set up an autonomous body dealing with macro-prudential and financial regularities.

Is FSDC Statutory?

- No

Members of FSDC

- Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Chairman, SEBI
- Chairman, IRDA
- Chairman, PFRDA
- Chairman, IBBI
- Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance
- Finance Secretary and/or Secretary Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)
- Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS)
- Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, DEA, will be the Secretary of the Council
- The Chairperson may invite any person whose presence is deemed necessary for any of its meeting(s).

Chairperson?

- The Union Finance Minister of India

Primary Idea

- FSDC will help India be better prepared in dealing with incidents like global economic meltdown.

- Such incidents put pressure on governments and institutions across the globe to regulate their economic assets.

Important Roles

- Strengthening, institutionalizing, maintaining financial stability
- Financial sector development, and Inter-regulatory coordination
- No funds are separately allocated to the council

For Example

Steady stream

The government plans to smoothen the process of asset monetisation

■ Niti Aayog, steering the ₹6 lakh crore National Monetisation Pipeline, wants infra investment norms streamlined across financial sectors

■ Financial Stability and Development Council, chaired by Finance Minister, expected to nudge regulators to ease regulations

■ RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA and Finance Ministry officials are part of the council, designed to enhance inter-regulator coordination

■ Pension funds, insurers, mutual funds and banks have varying restrictions on investing in Infrastructure Investment Trusts and Real Estate Investment Trusts



5. Environment

Protected Areas in Assam

Introduction

- **Assam protected areas** includes
 - ✓ 7 national parks (2.51% of Assam's area) - Dibru Saikhowa, Orang, Nameri, **Kaziranga**, **Manas** + Dihing Patkai and Raimona
 - ✓ 16 wildlife sanctuaries (1.88% of Assam's area)
- It also includes -
 - ✓ 2 biosphere reserves - Dibru Saikhowa, Manas
 - ✓ 2 Natural world heritage sites - **Kaziranga**, **Manas**
 - ✓ Ramsar site - Deepar Beel
 - ✓ 4 Tiger reserves - Orang, Nameri, **Kaziranga**, **Manas**
 - ✓ Elephant reserves
 - ✓ 46 Important bird areas

Kaziranga

- It was declared as a **National Park** in 1974.
- It has been declared a **Tiger Reserve** since 2007.
- It has a total tiger reserve area of 1,030 sq km with a core area of 430 sq. km.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1985.
- It is recognised as an **Important Bird Area by Bird Life International**.
- It is situated on the bank of river Brahmaputra.
- Kaziranga is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, crisscrossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri, and the park includes numerous small bodies of water.
- It is popularly known as the home of the "Big Five".
- One Horned Rhinoceroses, Tigers, Asiatic wild buffalos, Eastern Swamp Deer, and Elephant.
- It hosts two-thirds of the world's Great One-horned rhinoceros (68% of worldwide population).
- It has one of the highest densities of Tigers in the wild in the world and also houses almost entire population of the Eastern Swamp Deer.



Manas

- Manas is a
- National park
- Natural World Heritage site
- Tiger reserve
- An elephant reserve
- Biosphere reserve (Not under MAB of UNESCO)
- Located in the Himalayan foothills, it is **contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.**
- The name of the park is originated from the **Manas River**, which is named after the serpent goddess Mansa.
- The Manas river is a **major tributary of Brahmaputra River**, which passes through the heart of the national park.
- It splits into **two separate rivers**, the Beki and Bholkaduba as it reaches the plains.
- The **Manas river** also serves as an **international border** dividing India and Bhutan.
- The park is well known for species of **rare and endangered wildlife** that are not found anywhere else in the world like the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.

ORANG



- It is located on the **north bank of the Brahmaputra River**.
- It is also known as the **mini Kaziranga National Park** since the two parks have a similar landscape made up of marshes, streams and grasslands.
- The park has a rich flora and fauna, including **great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, pygmy hog, elephants, wild buffalo and tigers**.
- It is the 49th TR in the country with the **smallest core** of 78.28 sq. km and **highest density** nationally.
- Tiger reserves in Assam fall in the **Terai arc landscape** sustains grassland and a good prey base.

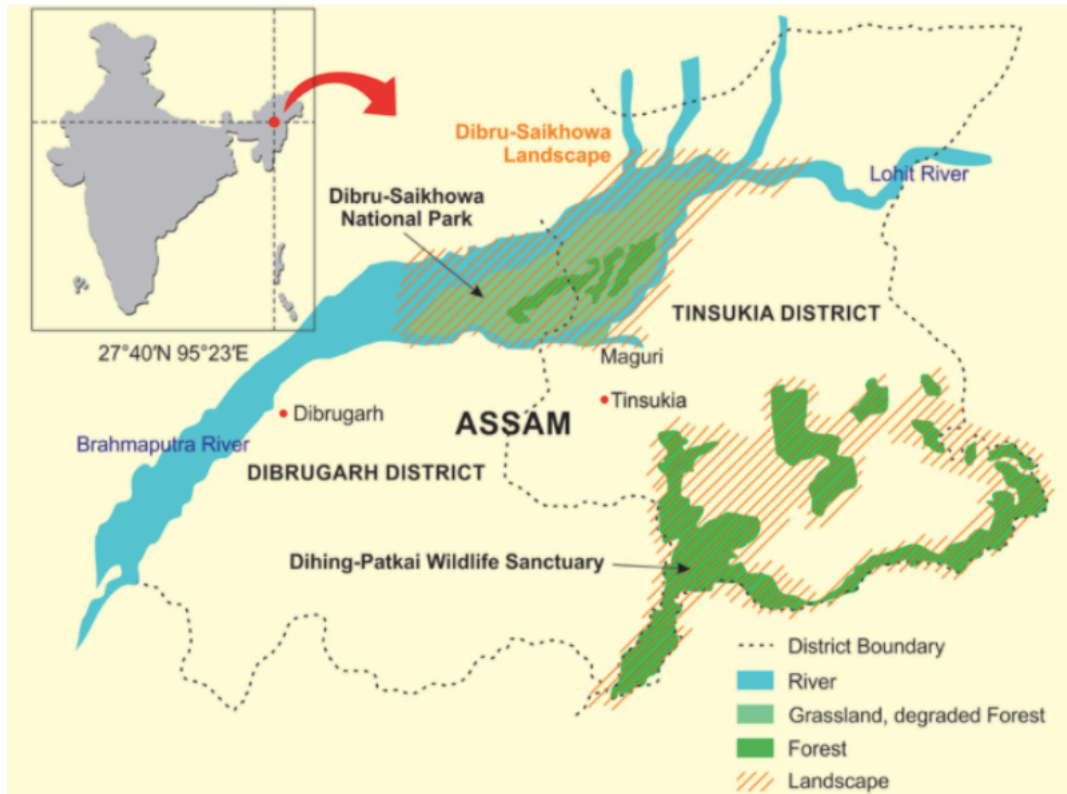
Nameri

- Nameri shares its **northern boundary** with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The river **Jia-Bhoroli** is the lifeline of Nameri, which flows along the southern boundary of the park from northwest to southeast.
- In the east, the river **Bor-Dikorai** is a tributary of river Jia- Bhoroli, flowing along the southern boundary from northeast to southwest.



Dibru Saikhowa

- It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997 with an area of 765 sq. km.
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra river, Lohit river and Arunachal Hills in the north and Dibru river, Debang river, Dibru and Patkai hills in the south.
- It is the largest Salix swamp forest in north-eastern India.
- An identified Important Bird Area (IBA), it is most famous for the rare white-winged wood ducks as well as feral horses.



Dehing Patkai

- The national park is located within the larger Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve, which spreads across the coal- and oil-rich districts of Upper Assam.
- The Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is also known as the Jeypore Rainforest.
- Dehing is the name of the river that flows through this forest and Patkai is the hill at the foot of which the sanctuary lies.
- It is home to Chinese pangolin and is the only sanctuary in India which is home to seven different species of wild cats - tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, leopard cat, golden cat, jungle cat and marbled cat.
- It has the highest concentration of the rare endangered White Winged Wood Duck.

Raimona

- It lies within the Bodoland Territorial Region.
- It is bounded on the west by the Sonkosh river and the Saralbhangra river on the east, both tributaries of Brahmaputra.
- The Pekua river defines Raimona's southern boundary.
- Raimona is an integral part of the 2,837 sq. km Manas Biosphere Reserve and the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve.
- It shares contiguous forest patches of Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park of Bhutan creating a transboundary conservation landscape of more than 2,400 sq km.
- It is famous for Golden Langur, an endemic species which has been named as the mascot of Bodoland region.



6. International Relation

Connect Central Asia Policy

Introduction

- When – 2012
- Whom- The then External affairs minister E Ahmed
- Track 2 diplomacy
- political, security, economic and cultural connections
- Central Asia consists of five nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
- Central Asian region is considered to be the part of **India's "extended neighbourhood"**.
- Central Asia is strategically positioned as an **access point between Europe and Asia**.
- These countries gained independence in 1990 from USSR

Main Pillars of policy

- recognized by 4 C
- Culture
- Commerce
- Connectivity
- Consulate
- India declared that it will go for greater engagement in education, tele communication, food security, e-network etc.

Reinvigoration of Policy

- India's 'Connect Central Asia Policy' was reinforced in 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian head of state to visit all five nations between July 6 and 13.
- High Octane diplomacy
- Since then there has been significant progress in cooperation, particularly in the fields of defence, energy and connectivity
- This renewed focus on the region can be attributed to the changing geopolitics of the region, particularly the formation of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the external security threats to the region.

Significance of Central Asia for India

- offers **extensive potential for trade, investment, and growth.**
- The region is richly endowed with commodities such as **crude oil, natural gas, cotton, gold, copper, aluminium, and iron.**
- The increasing importance of the region's oil and gas resources has generated new rivalries among external powers.
- Energy security - **uranium and oil and gas.**
 - ✓ In pursuance of this India is negotiating on **TAPI pipeline.**
 - ✓ India signed a **civil nuclear deal with Kazakhstan.**

Conclusion

- Connect Central Asia policy shouldn't just remain on paper but it should be realized in practice.
- Connect Central Asia policy is a holistic policy which is not just about energy, oil, and natural resources but about cooperating in every sphere, including politics, culture, and defense.
- This policy will be a game changer in times to come. Central Asian regional dynamics will become very interesting with India's involvement in the region in the coming years.