

## Prelim Bits 30-01-2019

### International Gandhi Prize

- The Government of India had announced the International Gandhi Peace Prize for 2018 to Nippon Foundation Chairman Sasakawa Yohei.
- The award is to honor the efforts of Sasakawa toward eradicating leprosy in India and elsewhere around the world.
- Sasakawa is the first Japanese to receive the Indian award.
- The award was conferred in 2014 to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari won the award for 2015 for rural development and education.
- The award for 2016 has been jointly given to Akshaya Patra Foundation for providing mid-day meals to children across the country and Sulabh International for its work towards emancipation of manual scavengers.
- For 2017, the award is given to Ekai Abhiyan Trust for their contribution to education for rural and tribal children.
- The International Gandhi Peace Prize was established in 1995 to mark the 125th birthday of the Indian human rights leader Mahatma Gandhi.
- The winners are selected by a jury headed by Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India and two other eminent persons.

### Chin refugees

- Eight organizations of the Chakma community submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking the inclusion of Chin refugees in India by amending the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
- The bill currently allows illegal migrants who **are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis & Christians** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan**, eligible for citizenship.
- They want to add Myanmar to the list.
- The Chins are one of the major ethnic groups in Myanmar, and are mostly Christians.
- They are ethnically related to Mizos of Mizoram and the Kuki-Zomi groups in Manipur.
- Buddhist-majority Myanmar was governed by a military junta since the

1960s, until recently.

- They carried out forced assimilation and repression of the Chin people.
- About 4,000 Chin refugees were registered with the UNHCR in New Delhi.
- But in June 2018, the UNHCR decided to cancel their 'refugee status' on the ground that Myanmar has now become "stable and secure" and they don't need "international protection".

## Poll symbols

- Aam Aadmi Party moved the Delhi High Court, seeking to restrain another party named Aapki Apni Party from using the battery torch symbol.
- It is because the battery torch, with rays of light on top, is similar to AAP's broom symbol.
- This along with the similar name is likely to confuse voters.
- The Election Commission has two lists of symbols namely **reserved and free**.
- Reserved symbols are allotted to candidates sponsored by recognized state or national parties.
- Similarly a list of free symbols is prepared by ECI for independent candidates or those from unrecognized parties.
- These candidates have to choose three symbols from the list at the time of submission of nomination papers.
- One of the three will be allocated to him.
- Any choice other than from the list will be summarily rejected.
- Two or more recognized political parties can have the same symbol provided they are not contenders in the same State or Union Territory.

## New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1 in Arctic region

- A new study has found traces of antibiotic resistance (AR) genes in the High Arctic region (Svalbard).
- It includes the 'superbug' or the **New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase-1** protein (coded by blaNDM-1 gene), which was first detected in urban India in 2008.
- The detection reinforces how rapidly AR can globalize.
- Bacteria with the NDM-1 gene are part of a larger group of superbug bacteria that are extremely hard to treat and can spread easily in hospitals.
- Most NDM-1 strains are resistant to all commonly used antibiotics.

## Golden Langur

- Assam announced the success of the Golden Langur Conservation Breeding Program in the State.

- Gee's golden langur is a leaf-eating monkey found only in northeastern India and Bhutan.
- It is currently marked endangered in the IUCN list.
- It inhabits evergreen and deciduous tropical forests.
- Like most fruit eating primates they play a vital role in forest repopulation i.e via seed dispersal, seed predation, and pollination.



### **Pong Dam Wetlands**

- The State Forest Department is organizing the annual census of waterfowl species at Pong wetlands of Kangra Valley, Himachel Pradesh.
- Water fowls are the birds that depend on water bodies for roosting and feeding.
- Pong is a man-made wetland formed by the construction of Pong Dam during 1974 across the Beas River.
- The reservoir is also known Maha Rana Pratap Sagar.
- It was declared a Ramsar Site in the year 2002.
- It is the only place in the country after the Bharatpur sanctuary in Rajasthan where the red-necked grebe descends every year.
- Other visitors include White Fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Indian Skimmer, White rumped Vultures, Black bellied Tern.

**Source: PIB, The Hindu, Business Standard**