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WHO IS A D-VOTER?



The Assam Chief Minister recently announced that nearly 1.2 lakh people in the state have been identified as 'D' (Dubious or Doubtful) voters, with 41,583 declared as foreigners.

- The concept of **D-Voter** is **unique to Assam**, where migration and citizenship are among the biggest political fault lines.
- It was **introduced in Assam in 1997 by the Election Commission**, targeting those who could not prove their Indian nationality.
- Those **persons whose citizenship was doubtful** or was under dispute were categorized as 'D- Voters' during the preparation of the National Register of Citizens in Assam.
- 'Doubtful voter' or 'doubtful citizenship' have **not been defined in the Citizenship Act, 1955, or the Citizenship Rules of 2003.**
 - The Citizenship Rules, 2003, was framed under the provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003.
 - The rules framed in 2003 **list out the steps to be followed** for the preparation of the National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC).
 - Under subsection 4 of section 4 that deals with the preparation of NRIC, it has been only mentioned that details of individuals whose citizenship is doubtful will be **entered by the Local Registrar with 'appropriate remark** in the population register for further enquiry'.
 - A family or individual is notified in a specific pro forma as soon as the verification process concludes whether they have been classified as a dubious citizen (D-Category).

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- Before deciding whether or not to add their name to the register, they are also **given the opportunity to be heard by the Taluk, or Sub-district Registrar of Citizenship**. The Registrar has ninety days to complete and justify his findings.
 - Because their Indian citizenship has not been verified, doubtful voters are **not allowed to vote in elections**.
 - They are also **not permitted to run for office in the nation's elections**.
 - The marking as doubtful voter is a **temporary measure and cannot be prolonged**. A decision in a definite period of time must be taken.
 - According to the documentation provided, if it is determined that the individual is a foreign national or an illegal immigrant, they **may be deported or placed in a detention centre**.
 - D- Voters also have the **option to apply and get their names included in NRC**.
 - They will be **included only after they get clearance from the Foreigners Tribunals** and their names are removed from electoral rolls under the 'D' category.
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WHAT IS SHE-BOX (SEXUAL HARASSMENT E-BOX) PORTAL?



Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched the new SHe-Box portal.

- It is a centralized platform for **registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women in the workplace**.
- It serves as a centralized **repository of information related to Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs)** formed across the country, encompassing both the government and private sectors.
- It offers a common platform to **file complaints, track their status, and ensure time-bound processing** of complaints by ICs.

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- It provides **assured redressal of complaints** and a streamlined process for all stakeholders.
- The portal will also enable **real-time monitoring of complaints** through a designated nodal officer.
- The portal will ensure that complaints can be safely **registered without personal information being publicly accessible**.
- The SHe-Box portal can be accessed at <https://shebox.wcd.gov.in/>.

Points to Remember:

- In 2017, an upgraded version of SHe-Box was launched based on The **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013**, where women who are harassed at any workplace can register their case on this, SHe-Box, file their complaint, and then two types of committees will be formed.
 - One, for **private institutions**, an **internal committee** will be formed, and for **government institutions**, a **local committee** will be formed under the chairmanship of the DM or DC or an officer appointed by them, and actions will be taken by them from time to time.
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INDIA'S 2nd NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBMARINE

Why in news?

India has got its second nuclear submarine with the commissioning of INS Arighaat into the Navy. INS Arighaat will join its predecessor **INS Arihant** strengthening the country's nuclear triad — the ability to fire nuclear missiles from platforms in the air, land and sea.

INS Arihant

- INS Arihant, a 6,000-tonne submarine is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project.



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- Under the Rs 90,000 crore top secret ATV project, India is currently building three more SSBNs to follow INS Arihant.
- The second such submarine, INS Arighat commissioned recently.
- The vessel will be followed by two 7,000-tonne SSBNs under the ATV project.
- There is also plan to build 13,500-tonne SSBNs with more powerful 190MW reactors.
 - It is India's first indigenous nuclear submarine that has been inducted in the Indian Navy.
 - Launched in 2009, INS Arihant was commissioned in 2016.

Nuclear triad

- With INS Arihant, India completed its 'nuclear triad'.
- i.e., India can launch nuclear missile from all three key defence bastions

— land, air and sea.

- Triad is important because in an enemy strike, even if the other wings are destroyed, the third can launch a retaliatory strike thus providing a guaranteed 'second strike' capability to the country.



- **Part of Elite club**
 - INS Arihant places India in the league of select group of five Countries — US, Russia, France, UK and China — which can design, construct and operate Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarines.

2nd nuclear missile submarine INS Arighaat

- India got its second nuclear submarine with the commissioning of INS Arighaat into the Navy, a move that will significantly boost the country's deterrence capability.



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- The discreet commissioning ceremony of the Arihant-class vessel in Visakhapatnam was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- **Features**
 - The 6,000-tonne nuclear-propelled submarine will be armed with indigenously made K-15 missiles which have a range of over 700 km.
 - Like INS Arihant, it is powered by 83 MW pressurised light-water reactors which allows it to remain submerged for longer periods when compared to conventional submarines.
 - The presence of both INS Arihant and INS Arighaat will enhance India's capability to deter potential adversaries and safeguard its national interests.

RESET PROGRAMME



The **Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training (RESET) Programme** is aimed at **empowering the retired sports persons** who have played for the country and brought

immense laurels to the nation.

- It will support **retired athletes** on their **career development journey** by empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.
- It represents a significant step towards recognizing and utilizing the invaluable experience and expertise of our retired athletes.
- **Eligibility:**
 - The athletes, who have retired from an active sports career and **are aged between 20-50 years** and who have been winners of an International Medal/participants in international events or have been National medallists/State medallists/participants in competitions recognized by National Sports Federations/Indian Olympic Association/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are eligible to apply for courses under RESET Programme.



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- Initially, the programmes will be of **two levels** based on educational qualifications viz., **Class 12th and above** and **Class 11th and below**.
- For this pilot phase of the RESET Programme, **Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE)** will be the lead institute to implement the Programme.
- The programme will be offered in **hybrid mode** consisting of self-paced learning through a dedicated portal, along with on-ground training and internship.
- **Internships will be provided** in sports organizations, sporting competitions/training camps, and leagues. Further, placement assistance, guidance for entrepreneurial ventures, etc. will be provided upon successful completion of the course.

LATERAL ENTRY INTO THE CIVIL SERVICES

- Lateral entry in administration is the appointment of specialists from the private sector in government organisations.
- It was recommended by the NITI Aayog in its Three-year Action Agenda and also the Group of Secretaries (GoS) on Governance had in its report recommended the induction of personnel in the middle and senior management level in the government.
- With lateral entry, the government aims to recruit outstanding individuals, with expertise in revenue, financial services, economic affairs, agriculture, cooperation and farmers' welfare, road transport and highway, civil aviation, commerce among many other sectors to serve for the benefit of the country.

Need for Lateral Entry:

- **Shortage of officers:**
 - There is a shortage of 22.48% or 1,510 officers for the IAS cadre, according to the DoPT. The IAS and the Indian Police Service (IPS) have a combined shortage of 2,418 officers.
- **Domain Expertise:**
 - Through lateral entry, domain experts can be recruited from the private sector to the central administration.



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Pros of Lateral Entry in Civil Services:

- **Expertise and Specialization:** Lateral entry allows professionals with specialized knowledge and experience from the private sector to contribute to policymaking and implementation, enhancing the quality of governance.
- **Innovation and Fresh Perspectives:** Individuals from diverse backgrounds bring new ideas, innovative approaches, and fresh perspectives, potentially improving efficiency and effectiveness in public administration.
- **Merit-Based Selection:** Lateral entry emphasizes merit, skills, and experience over traditional seniority, promoting a performance-oriented culture within the civil services.
- **Shortening Learning Curve:** Experienced professionals can quickly adapt and contribute without requiring extensive training.

Cons of Lateral Entry in Civil Services:

- **Cultural and Bureaucratic Resistance:** The traditional civil services may resist the inclusion of lateral entrants, potentially leading to friction, lack of cooperation, and integration challenges.
- **Lack of Public Sector Experience:** Lateral entrants may lack understanding of government procedures, protocols, and the complexities of public administration, affecting their effectiveness.
- **Potential for Bias:** The selection process for lateral entry could be perceived as biased or politically influenced, raising concerns about transparency and fairness.
- **Short-Term Focus:** Professionals entering laterally may focus on short-term goals rather than long-term public service commitments, potentially affecting the continuity and sustainability of policies.

Conclusion:

- While lateral entry brings certain benefits, it should not overshadow the need to address deeper issues within the Indian bureaucracy.
 - A balanced approach that includes both career bureaucrats and lateral entrants, with a focus on merit, social justice, and autonomy, is essential for effective governance.
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INCENTIVISING SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING IN INDIA

India's Semiconductor Ambitions:

- In today's world, semiconductors constitute the **backbone of modern electronics**, indispensably situated at the junction of a wide range of industries.
- Given their broad applicability, countries across the globe are strategizing to mitigate risks associated with over-reliance on a single supply source of semiconductor chips.
- This also serves to fortify national security and economic well-being, considering recent geopolitical conflicts.
- **Advantages to India:** India has 20% of the world's semiconductor design **workforce**, a rapidly evolving **technology** landscape and a thriving domestic **market**, all of which are conducive in building an indigenous semiconductor ecosystem.

India's Major Leap into Semiconductor Manufacturing:

- The government is aiming for India to be among the top five global destinations (on the lines of the United States, Taiwan and South Korea) for semiconductor manufacturing by 2030.
- **Government initiatives**, such as the National Electronics Policy or the USD10 billion production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductor manufacturing, are also boosting India's chipmaking aspirations.
- India has been luring foreign companies to set up operations in the country. **For example,**
 - The country has approved a fabrication plant worth \$11 billion being set up by Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip.
 - 3 different chip assembly plants are being set up by the Tatas, US-based Micron Technology, and Murugappa Group's CG Power in partnership with Japan's Renesas.

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- Hence, with the right blend of proactive actions, tech skills, infrastructural acceleration and fiscal investments, India has the potential to achieve this target.

The Semiconductor Manufacturing Incentive Policy:

- **In the first iteration** of the incentive policy released in 2021,
 - The Centre had offered a 30% capex subsidy for chip packaging and testing plants.
 - However, the Centre had increased the subsidy for such plants to 50% in 2022.
 - **The Semiconductor Manufacturing Incentive Policy 2.0:**
 - **Focus on chip fabrication:**
 - India wants to go up (beyond assembly and packaging facilities) the complexity ladder in the semiconductor ecosystem, where nations like Malaysia already have a stronghold.
 - Therefore, the new scheme could see an **increased focus on fabrication plants, and more advanced display technologies.**
 - **Technology transfer costs:**
 - Under the new incentive scheme, the government **does not want to support** technology transfer costs.
 - This implies that companies that collaborate with others to use their technology for chip fabrication may have to pay for it themselves.
 - **Capital equipment and ecosystem support:**
 - Under the new scheme, the government could also offer capital equipment and ecosystem support such as gases, chemicals, and raw materials needed at assembly and testing plants.
 - It could also look at incentivising fabrication of micro-LED displays.
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