



**PRELIMS POINTERS:**

17<sup>th</sup> January ,2024

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>FCRA REGISTRATION CANCELLATION FOR CPR</b></p>	<p><b>WHY IN NEWS?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <i>The Union Home Ministry's cancellation of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration for the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a prominent public policy research institution, is making headline.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>KEY HIGHLIGHTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Suspension Details:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ The FCRA registration, allowing CPR to receive foreign donations, was initially suspended on February 27, 2023, for alleged violations.</li> <li>☛ The suspension period, initially set for 180 days, was subsequently extended.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Violation Grounds:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Specifically pointing to the publication of reports on "current affairs programs" by CPR, which is considered a breach of FCRA regulations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Previous Tax Exemption Issue:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ In 2023, the Income Tax Department had cancelled CPR's tax exemption status, alleging issues such as payments to individuals not filing tax returns and questioning the commercial nature of CPR's published books.</li> <li>☛ CPR contested these allegations in the Delhi High Court.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>HAD FACED INCOME-TAX SCRUTINY LAST YEAR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Set up 50 years ago, major public policy thinktank CPR had faced income tax scrutiny along with Oxfam &amp; Independent Public Spirited Media Foundation last Sept</li> <li>&gt; Licence suspension renders CPR ineligible to receive or utilise foreign funds, unless authorised by government</li> <li>&gt; CPR says it's 'in complete compliance with the law'</li> </ul> </div> <p><b>ABOUT FCRA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Enactment and Purpose:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) enacted in 1976 during the Emergency.</li> <li>☛ A response to concerns about foreign interference through funding in India's affairs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Regulatory Amendments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Amended in 2010 to consolidate and prohibit detrimental activities.</li> <li>☛ Further amended in 2020 for tighter control over foreign funds.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Key Provisions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☛ Requires registration, SBI account for foreign funds, and proper utilization.</li> <li>☛ Mandates filing annual returns and prohibits fund transfer to other NGOs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Restrictions on Recipients:</b></li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT</b> Objective of FCRA Registration</p> </div>



- ☛ Prohibits foreign funds for candidates, journalists, judges, government servants, political entities, etc.
- ❖ **2021 Rule Changes:**
  - ☛ Increased compoundable offences from 7 to 12.
  - ☛ Exemption for contributions < Rs 10 lakh from relatives abroad.
  - ☛ Extended time limit for intimation of bank account openings.
  - ☛ MHA conducts inquiries via **Intelligence Bureau** into applicant's background.
  - ☛ Ensures non-involvement in activities promoting religious conversion, communal tension, or fund misuse.

## CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH (CPR)

### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of New Delhi's leading public policy research institute, Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for allegedly violating certain foreign funding norms.*

### ABOUT CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH (CPR)

#### ❖ Establishment:

- ☛ **Year:** Founded in 1973.
- ☛ **Type:** Think tank with a mission to contribute to public discourse on issues impacting life in India.
- ☛ **Nature:** Non-profit, non-partisan, independent institution.

#### ❖ Mission:

- ☛ **Objective:** Contribute to high-quality scholarship and better policies.
- ☛ **Legacy:** Carries the legacy of being one of India's premier public policy think tanks.

#### ❖ Functions and Research Areas:

- ☛ **Research Focus:** Engages in policy-related research across diverse subjects.
- ☛ **Areas Covered:** Climate change, air pollution, education, economy, environmental law, energy, governance, Indian politics, health, land rights, international relations, sanitation, jobs, social justice, technology, state capacity, water, and urbanization.
- ☛ **Purpose:** Aids policymakers with well-informed decisions based on scholarly research.

#### ❖ Key People:

- ☛ **Founder:** DH Pai Panandiker.
- ☛ **Governing Body:** Includes former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh, BV Verghese, former CJI YV Chandrachud, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Shyam Saran, Rama Bijapurkar, Subodh Bhargava, and other notable scholars, bureaucrats, and public intellectuals.





**ANTI-DEFECTION LAW**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

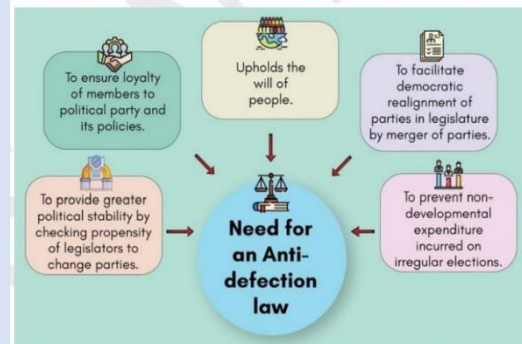
- ❖ *The Maharashtra Assembly Speaker's recent decision not to disqualify 40 MLAs of the Eknath Shinde faction, recognized as the real Shiv Sena, has brought the Anti-Defection Law under scrutiny.*

**ABOUT ANTI DEFECTION LAW**

- ❖ **Evolution of Anti-Defection Law:**
  - Efforts to combat defections began with a private member's resolution in 1967, leading to the **Y.B. Chavan Committee Report**.
  - The **Constitution (Thirty-second Amendment) Bill in 1973** and subsequent attempts paved the way for **Added 52<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act, 1985**, introducing the **Anti-Defection Law in the Tenth Schedule**.

**KEY PROVISIONS OF THE ANTI-DEFLECTION LAW:**

- ❖ **Disqualification Criteria:**
  - **Members face disqualification if they voluntarily give up party membership, vote against party directives, or join another party after election.**
- ❖ **Merger Exemption:**
  - **Two-thirds agreement within a legislature party allows exemption from disqualification in cases of party mergers.**
- ❖ **Decision Authority:**
  - **The Chairman or Speaker of the House holds absolute power to decide on disqualification cases.**
- ❖ **Loopholes and Shortcomings:**
  - **The law faces challenges related to mergers, expulsions, ambiguity on voluntary giving up membership, wide Speaker powers, limited judicial review, and the lack of individual stands for members.**



**INDIA'S KABIL ACQUIRES FIVE LITHIUM BLOCKS IN ARGENTINA**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *India has announced the acquisition of five lithium blocks in Argentina through Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), a company under the Ministry of Mines.*
- ❖ *The agreement was signed with Argentina's state-owned Catamarca Minera Y Energetica-Sociedad Del Estado (CAMYEN) in Catamarca province.*

**ABOUT ACQUISITION OF FIVE LITHIUM BLOCKS**

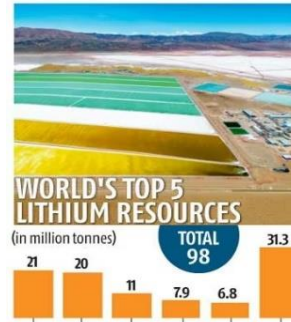
- ❖ **Exploration and exclusivity:**
  - KABIL has obtained exploration and exclusivity rights for **five lithium brine blocks in Argentina**.



- ☛ The blocks are named **Cortadera-I, Cortadera-VII, Cortadera-VIII, Cateo-2022-01810132, and Cortadera-VI**, covering an area of approximately 15,703 hectares.
- ☛ The project cost for development and exploration is **estimated at ₹200 crore, spread over a five-year period.**

❖ **Reducing dependency on imports:**

- ☛ India's lithium requirements, **valued at about ₹24,000 crore**, are predominantly met through **imports, primarily from China.**
- ☛ The acquisition **aims to reduce dependency on external sources** for this crucial mineral.



**INDIA'S LITHIUM EXPEDITION**

- India is dependent on China for lithium imports, total imports in FY23 were roughly **\$3 bn**
- Imports incurred costs of **₹25,000 crore** in FY23
- Agreement signed with Australia for exploring two lithium and three cobalt blocks in 2022
- Started bidding on November 29 for two blocks, including a **5.9 million** block in J&K
- In talks with Bolivia, Chile, and other nations for critical mineral extraction, development

**LITHIUM STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE:**

- ❖ **Lithium, known as 'white gold,'** is crucial for **green transition**, serving in **energy storage solutions, mobile batteries, and EVs.**
- ❖ Securing **lithium blocks aligns with India's strategic goal** of fostering self-reliance in critical minerals.
- ❖ **Lithium is a vital component in EV batteries**, emphasizing India's commitment to green and sustainable technologies.

**KABIL (KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LIMITED):**

❖ **Formation and Partners:**

- ☛ **Established in August 2019**, Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) is a **Joint Venture among three Government Enterprises - National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), and Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited (MECL).**
- ☛ Owned jointly by **NALCO, HCL, and MECL, KABIL operates with a clear ownership ratio of 40% NALCO, 30% HCL, and 30% MECL.,** respectively, under the **Ministry of Mines, Government of India.**



**KABIL**  
खनिज बिदेश इंडिया लिमिटेड  
KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LTD.

❖ **Objective:**

- ☛ KABIL's primary **objective is to ensure the supply side assurance of critical and strategic minerals**, enhancing mineral security for India.
- ☛ Incorporated **under the Companies Act 2013**, KABIL **aims to identify, explore, acquire, develop, mine,** and process strategic minerals abroad, especially those with limited availability in India, contributing significantly to the **"Make in India" initiative.**



## Places In News- MOUNT MARAPI

### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The **Marapi volcano** in **West Sumatra, Indonesia**, recently experienced an eruption, projecting ash to a **height of 3,000 meters (9,840 feet)** into the **atmosphere** and resulting in casualties.*

### ABOUT MOUNT MARAPI

- ❖ **Mount Marapi**, which means to the "**Mountain of Fire**," stands as the **most active volcano on Sumatra island**. Its **deadliest eruption occurred in April 1979**.
- ❖ It is an active **stratovolcano** located on the border between the province of **Central Java** and the **Special Region of Yogyakarta**, which is a **cultural capital of Indonesia**.
- ❖ Indonesia **positioned along the Pacific's "Ring of Fire"**, it boasts a total of **127 active volcanoes**.
- ❖ Despite its classification as one of the **world's most perilous volcanoes**, **Mount Merapi** remains a renowned **tourist attraction**.



### STRATOVOLCANO VOLCANO

- ❖ It is also **known as a composite**, is characterized by its **cone-shaped structure**, constructed from **multiple layers of lava, pumice, ash, and tephra**. The presence of viscous lava contributes to the **formation of tall peaks**.

## FINTECH SRO SHOULD BE DEVELOPMENT- ORIENTED, INDEPENDENT: RBI DRAFT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a **draft framework emphasizing** the need for independence and development-oriented roles for **self-regulatory organizations (SROs)** in the **fintech sector**.*

### ABOUT SRO

- ❖ An **SRO is a non-governmental organisation** that sets and enforces **rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry (members)**.
- ❖ Its aim of **protecting the customer** and promoting **ethics, equality, and professionalism**.





- ❖ The main idea behind the **guidelines is to empower the fledgling sector to function and innovate** responsibly even in the absence of formal regulations.

#### ABOUT RBI DRAFT

- ❖ The draft suggests that **SROs should operate independently**, contributing actively to **industry growth** and customer protection.
- ❖ It highlights the **importance of impartiality, avoidance of conflicts of interest**, and unbiased oversight by SROs over their members.
- ❖ This move follows RBI's directive in September last year, **urging fintechs to establish SROs**, and the central bank is now seeking feedback on the **draft framework from stakeholders until the end of February 2024**.

## LIGHT-EMITTING DIODES

#### WHY IN NEWS?

- ❖ *The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences highlighted the **significance of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs)** by **awarding the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014**. LEDs were acknowledged as the **lighting technology that would illuminate the 21st century**, surpassing traditional **incandescent bulbs and fluorescent lamps**.*

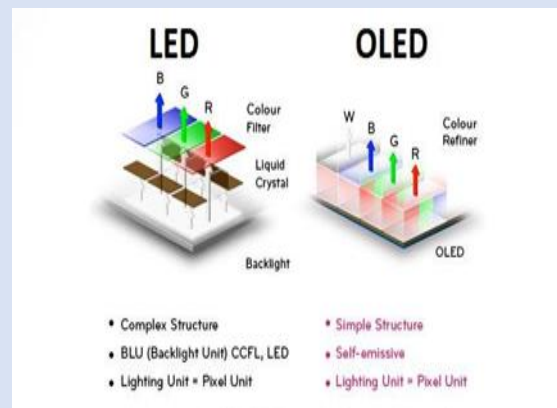
#### ABOUT LED

##### MEANING OF LED

- ❖ An LED (**Light-Emitting Diode**) is a **semiconductor device that emits light when an electric current passes through it**, commonly used for energy-efficient lighting and electronic displays.

#### WORKING OF LEDS

- ❖ **LEDs (Light-Emitting Diodes)** are **diode emitting light due to electron-hole recombination**.
- ❖ A **Diode** is an **electronic component**, 5 mm wide, with anode and cathode terminals which allow current to flow in **one direction through a p-n junction**.
- ❖ Electrons in the **p-n junction have more energy than holes**.
- ❖ **Electroluminescence** occurs when **energy release is in the visible spectrum**.
- ❖ **Band gap** ensures specific energy release, **controlling emitted light**.



#### BAND GAP AND ENERGY EMISSION:

- ❖ The **band gap**, a characteristic of materials, determines **the energy emitted during electron-hole recombination**.
- ❖ **Engineers can tailor the p-n junction's band gap** to correspond to visible light, ensuring specific colors are emitted.

#### LED COLOR VARIETY



- ❖ LEDs can produce primary colors—**red, green, and blue**—allowing for a diverse range of **colors by combining different LEDs**.
- ❖ The ability to create all **three primary colors facilitates applications in displays and lighting**.

**ADVANTAGES & APPLICATIONS OF LEDS**

- ❖ **Moore's law and Haitz's law predict cost reduction and increased light output.**
- ❖ LEDs can produce up to 300 lumens per watt, translating to **cost savings and less waste**.
- ❖ Extensive applications in **industry, consumer electronics, and household appliances**.
- ❖ Used in **smartphones, TV screens, signboards, greenhouse lighting, barcode scanners, and air quality monitoring**.
- ❖ Ongoing research explores **perovskite** materials for more efficient LEDs.

**Difference between LEDs and OLED:**

Organic Light Emitting Diodes	Light Emitting Diodes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Made of organic materials.</li> <li>❖ Pixels are self-illuminating.</li> <li>❖ More expensive, but prices are decreasing significantly.</li> <li>❖ Wider viewing angle; colors don't wash out at extreme angles.</li> <li>❖ Enables lighter and thinner displays.</li> <li>❖ More energy-efficient with better power efficiency.</li> <li>❖ Faster response time.</li> <li>❖ Used in foldable mobile phones, television display, etc</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Made from inorganic compounds.</li> <li>❖ LEDs used to light the display.</li> <li>❖ Less expensive than OLED displays.</li> <li>❖ Limited viewing angle; colors may wash out at extreme angles.</li> <li>❖ Heavier and thicker displays.</li> <li>❖ Consumes more energy compared to OLED.</li> <li>❖ Slower response time.</li> </ul>

**COMPETITION COMMISSION OF INDIA (CCI)**

**WHY IN NEWS?**

- ❖ *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) dismissed a complaint against PVR, a leading multiplex chain, stating "no discernible competition concern."*

**ABOUT CCI**

- ❖ **Introduction to CCI:**
  - ☛ **Statutory Body:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body under the Government of India, established in March 2009.
  - ☛ **Replacing MRTP Act:** It replaced the **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act)** based on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee.
- ❖ **Competition act, 2002:**
  - ☛ **Enforcement:** The **Competition Act, 2002**, is enforced by CCI to prevent anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant positions, and regulate combinations causing adverse effects on competition.



- ☛ **Philosophy:** It follows modern competition laws and promotes a competitive environment in India.

❖ **Composition of CCI:**

- ☛ **Members:** The Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members, appointed by the Central Government.

- ☛ **Eligibility:** Members must be individuals with expertise in various fields and qualifications specified by the Central Government.



❖ **Functions and Roles:**

- ☛ **Competition Advocacy:** CCI aims to establish a competitive environment through proactive engagement with stakeholders, including consumers, industry, and government.

- ☛ **Knowledge Intensive Organization:** Aims to be a knowledge-intensive organization with high competence.

- ☛ **Professionalism and Transparency:** Emphasizes professionalism, transparency, resolve, and wisdom in enforcement.

