



Central Information Commission

Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims, GS Mains paper II, IV
- ✓ (The article is very important w.r.t. ethics case studies)
- ✓ Polity and governancy, Right to Information (RTI), Central Information Commission (CIC)

Recently:

- ❖ Prime Minister will be inaugurating the new premises of Central Information Commission (CIC) at Munirka in the capital tomorrow.

About CIC – Central Information Commission:

- Constitution of the CIC:
 - CIC is a statutory body constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
 - Commission includes 1 Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and not more than 10 Information Commissioners (IC) who will be appointed by the President of India.
 - Oath of Office is administered by the President of India.
- Eligibility criteria for CIC:
 - Candidates for CIC/IC must be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.
 - CIC/IC shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union Territory.
 - He shall not hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.
 - Appointment Committee includes: Prime Minister (Chair), Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and one Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- Term of Office and other service conditions of CIC:
 - CIC shall be appointed for a term of 5 years from date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment.
 - Salary will be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner. This will not be varied to the disadvantage of the CIC during service.
- Term of office and other service conditions of IC:
 - IC shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier and shall not be eligible for reappointment as IC.
 - Salary will be the same as that of the Election Commissioner. This will not be varied to the disadvantage of the IC during service.
 - IC is eligible for appointment as CIC but will not hold office for more than a total of five years including his/her term as IC.
- Powers and functions of Information Commissions?
 - CIC/SCIC (Central and State Chief Information Commissions respectively) will have powers of Civil Court.
 - The Central Information Commission/State Information Commission has a duty to receive complaints from any person -
 - who has not been able to submit an information request because a PIO has not been appointed ;
 - who has been refused information that was requested;
 - who has received no response to his/her information request within the specified time limits ;
 - who thinks the fees charged are unreasonable ;
 - who thinks information given is incomplete or false or misleading ;and
 - any other matter relating to obtaining information under this law.

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CIMON –The Flying Brain

Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims
- ✓ Sci-tech, CIMON, Flying Brain, Space science, 3-D Printing, Horizon Mission

Recently:

- ❖ An aeronautics company Airbus has created an artificial intelligence system called CIMON (Crew Interactive Mobile Companion) which also called a “Flying brain” for assisting astronauts in the ISS (international Space Station)

What is CIMON made of?

- CIMON is a technology demonstrator, which is made of plastic and metal and weighs only 5 Kg.
- It has been made using 3-D printing technology.

What will be the functions of CIMON?

- CIMON has a brain-like AI network and is designed to support astronauts in performing routine work.
- It will interact with the astronauts just like a colleague because of its interface in form of a face, voice and Artificial Intelligence.
- It may display them the procedures or may provide solutions to their problems.
- It will help in increasing efficiency and security of the space missions as it can serve as an early warning system for technical problems.
- It will be tested on the International Space Station (ISS) during the European Space Agency’s Horizons mission between June and October this year. (Horizon mission of ESA is different from New-Horizons mission of NASA).
- On its first flight to the space, CIMON will be tested particularly on GNC algorithms (Guidance, Navigation and Control) under zero gravity conditions.



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Draft Indian National Strategy For Standardization

Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims, GS Mains paper III
- ✓ Economy, Draft Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS), Industrial standards for goods and services.

Recently:

- ❖ The Department of Commerce has recently come up with a Draft Indian National Strategy for Standardization (INSS).

What does INSS include?

The Strategy takes in to account the following:

- The current state of development across sectors,
- the existing quality infrastructure and
- the policy directions in relation to domestic economic developments and trade in goods and services.

Key objectives of the INSS:

- Positioning standards as a key driver of all economic activities relating to goods and services.
- Developing a comprehensive ecosystem in India for standards development taking into account the diversity of interests and expertise available.
- Enhancing competitiveness of Indian goods and services with the use of standards in domestic and international markets.
- Providing level playing field to domestic industry.
- Adopting best practices in standardization, conformity assessment and technical regulations and creating an integrated infrastructure, roadmaps and institutions for their effective management
- Aligning the Strategy with other national policies related to trade & industry, consumers and environment

What is the need of INSS?

- A Mature Standards Ecosystem is Necessary because of the rapid growth of the Indian economy, its size and emerging relevance in global trade.
- It becomes essential to establish a robust 'Quality Infrastructure' in India with a harmonized, dynamic, and mature standards ecosystem.
- This will boost economic growth and enhance the 'Made in India' label.
- Standards have been widely recognized as catalysts for technical development, industrial growth, well-being of the society and more recently for convergence of new and emerging technologies.



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Rydberg Polarons – A new state of matter

Relevancy:

- ✓ GS Prelims, GS Mains paper III
- ✓ Sci-tech, new state of matter, Rydberg polarons, Bose Einstein Condensation, dark matter

Recently:

- ❖ An international team of physicists have been successful in creating a new state of matter termed “Rydberg polarons”.

How is this new state achieved?

- To achieve this new state, the scientists have created a “giant atom” and filled it with ordinary atoms
- These atoms are held together by a weak bond under the conditions of very cold temperatures.
- This is an intricate experiment that builds upon several advances that were achieved over the past two decades.
- It uses ideas from two different fields, which have already been discovered:
 - Bose Einstein Condensation and
 - Rydberg atoms.

Bose Einstein Condensate:

- BEC is a liquid-like state of matter that occurs at very low temperatures.
- A BEC can be perturbed to create excitations which are like ripples on a lake.
- Rydberg atoms:
 - Normally, atoms in an electron revolve around the nucleus in regular orbits.
 - But in case of a Rydberg atom, an electron is excited by a laser light in such a manner that it jumps to a larger orbit.
 - This larger orbit can adjust many smaller atoms in side itself. Strontium atoms were used in this experiment.
 - As the electron moves around many strontium atoms, it generates ripples of the BEC.
 - The Rydberg atom becomes inextricably mixed with these ripples and forms a new super-atom called a ‘Rydberg polaron’.
- Why is this study important?
- This experiment is of use in cosmology, especially in understanding the mysterious ‘dark matter’, which exerts a gravitational force on all other forms of matter.
- There exist some postulates that ‘dark matter’ is nothing but Bose Einstein Condensate of an unknown element.



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