

**09 – 11 – 2021**

**News:** Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020

- Recently, the Haryana Government has said that the Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020 will be implemented in the state from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **About the Law**

- The law requires firms with 10 or more employees to reserve 75% of all jobs offering a salary of less than Rs. 30,000 a month for eligible candidates of State domicile.
- Jobs will be provided in various companies, societies, trusts and limited liability partnership firms situated in the state.
- The move is aimed at disallowing the influx of talent from other parts of the country even in sectors like IT and IT enabled services (ITes), which the State does not have enough captive supply of.
- The law will be applicable for a period of 10 years.
- The state government also relaxed the residency domicile requirement from 15 to 5 years for a person to get a bona fide resident certificate in the state to provide some flexibility to the private companies in hiring.

- It will be **mandatory** for all these employers to register all their employees drawing gross monthly salary or wages not more than Rs. 30,000 on the **designated portal** available on the official website of the Labour Department, Haryana.
- **Violation of any provision of this Act will be a punishable offence.**

### **Concerns**

- **Can Trigger Exodus of Investors:** It **could trigger an exodus of large domestic and multinational investors across sectors such as auto, IT that rely on highly skilled manpower.**
- **Affect Existing Industries:** Raising the son of the soil issue and preventing free movement of manpower resources in the State from other regions can have an adverse effect on the existing industries in the State.
- This may **force those tech giants and other industries to shift their base from Haryana to other States and drain out the State's monetary resources** to that extent.
- **Can Cause Extreme Talent Crunch:** Moreover, imposing the reservations on gig and platform companies could create a crippling talent crunch.

- **Against the Constitution:** The Constitution of India guarantees freedom of movement and consequently employment within India through several provisions.
- Article 14 provides for equality before law irrespective of place of birth.
- Article 15 guards against discrimination based on place of birth.
- Article 16 guarantees no birthplace-based discrimination in public employment.
- Article 19 ensures that citizens can move freely throughout the territory of India.

### **Other Such Attempts**

- AAP (Political Party) chief has promised 80% reservations for locals in private jobs in poll-bound Goa and they made a similar promise for Uttarakhand too.
- This follows in the footsteps of states like Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra and Madhya Pradesh that have already implemented or tried to implement similar populist policies.

### **Reasons Behind Such Legislations**

- **Vote Bank Politics:** Inter-state migrant workers (ISMW) constitute a sizeable “under-used or un-used” electorate as they often do not exercise voting rights. If these workers and potential migrants could be retained through Job For Locals

Legislations (JRFL) and provided with jobs, the parties' electoral causes will be served.

- **Economic Sluggishness:** The native unemployment issue assumes relevance as joblessness has intensified in the context of shrinking government employment.
- **Increased Incomes and Talent:** Job For Locals Legislations will not only retain talent but also incomes which otherwise will go to “other regions”.
- **Precondition for Land Acquisition:** Farmers and villagers, who lose their land in the process of land acquisition for industries, keep such preconditions in which industries have to provide jobs to local youth.

**News:** 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report, 2021

## **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Index**

- Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index is a **composite indicator to assess international trade logistics across states and Union territories.**
- LEADS report and index have been publishing **annually since 2018 (excluding 2020 due to covid crisis).**
- It is **based on a stakeholders' survey conducted by Deloitte for the Ministry of commerce and industry.**

- The index is loosely based on the World Bank's biennial Logistics Performance Index (LPI).
- A total of 21 perception and objective variables have been statistically analysed to prepare a composite index basis upon which the states have been ranked.
- Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab have emerged as the top performers in the LEADS 2021 index respectively. Gujarat has been the top ranked state since the inception.
- Uttar Pradesh showed the largest improvement, with leapfrogging seven ranks in a single year.

**News:** UNESCO picks Srinagar as creative city

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has picked Srinagar among 49 cities as part of the creative city network under the Crafts and Folk Arts category.
- The inclusion is likely to pave way for the city to represent its handicrafts on the global stage through UNESCO.
- The network involves folk art, media, film, literature, design, gastronomy and media arts.
- Srinagar was among one more city from India competing for the coveted recognition this year.

- The dossier for its nomination was filed first in 2019 and then again in 2021.

## UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)

- UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004.
- Currently, over 250 cities make up this network which aims towards a common objective of placing creativity and cultural industries at the heart of their development plans at the local level and cooperating actively at the international level.
- By joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), the cities pledge to share best practices and develop partnerships involving public and private sectors as well as civil society to strengthen the creation, production, and distribution of cultural activities.
- The UNESCO Creative Cities aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goals through innovative thinking and action.
- The network covers seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature and music.
- Mumbai – Creative City of Film, Hyderabad – Creative City of Gastronomy, Chennai & Varanasi – Creative City of Music, Jaipur – Creative City of Crafts and Folk Arts and Srinagar – Creative City of Crafts and Folk arts are the entries from India.

# United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a **specialized agency of the United Nations** (UN).
- It seeks to **build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture**.
- It is also a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), a coalition of UN agencies and organizations aimed at fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- UNESCO's **Headquarters** are located in **Paris** and the Organization has more than 50 field offices around the world.
- It has **193 Members and 11 Associate Members** (As of April 2020) and is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board.
- Three UNESCO member states are not UN members: Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine.
- While **three UN member states (Israel, Liechtenstein, United States) are not UNESCO members**.
- The UNESCO **World Water Development Report**, 2018 states that **India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world**.

## Objectives

UNESCO focuses on a set of objectives such as:

- Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning
- Mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development
- Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges
- Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace
- Building inclusive knowledge societies through information and communication
- Focuses on global priority areas - “Africa” and “Gender Equality”.

## Initiatives of UNESCO

- UNESCO has enlisted the level of vulnerability each language possesses. It also maintains and protects Global Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, Creative Cities Network.
- International Council on the Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) advises the UNESCO for the implementation of World Heritage Convention.
- UNESCO established the Memory of the World Programme in 1992. (conventions).
- International Oceanographic Commission works under the aegis of UNESCO.