



Estd :1988

Daily Current Affairs – 2019

(21th May)

Resources: The Hindu / PIB

Topic: For Prelims and Mains

United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) :

Why in news? Reacting angrily to a submission from the **Geneva-based Human Rights Council (HRC)** on the alleged violations in **Jammu and Kashmir**, India has recently informed the United Nations body that it will no longer entertain any communication with **the HRC's Special Rapporteurs** on its report.

About the UNHRC:

- The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations body whose mission is to **promote and protect human rights around the world.**
- It was established by the **UN General Assembly on March 15, 2006 to replace** the UN Commission on Human Rights.
- The UNHRC has **47 members** elected for staggered **three-year terms** on a regional group basis.
- On the basis of **equitable geographical distribution**, Council seats are allocated to **the five regional groups as follows:**
 1. African States, 13 seats
 2. Asia Pacific States, 13 seats

3. Eastern European States, 6 seats
4. Latin American and Caribbean States, 8 seats
5. Western European and other States, 7 seats.

Mandate

- The **UNHRC investigates allegations of breaches** of human rights in **UN member states**.
- And addresses **important thematic human rights issues** -such as
 1. Freedom of association and assembly,
 2. Freedom of expression,
 3. Freedom of belief and religion,
 4. Women's rights,
 5. LGBT rights, and
 6. The rights of racial and ethnic minorities.
- The headquarters of UNHRC is in Geneva, Switzerland.

New members and Criticism:

The **new members** elected are

- Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eritrea, Somalia and Togo in the African States category;
- Bulgaria and Czech Republic in the Eastern European States group;
- Argentina, Bahamas and Uruguay in the Latin American and Caribbean States group;
- Austria, Denmark and Italy in the Western European and other States category.

Rights group, Human Rights Watch, criticized the **election of Philippines, Eritrea, Bahrain and Cameroon to the council**.

The UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) had been strongly criticized for allowing **countries with poor human rights** records to be members.

Topic: For Prelims and Mains

Treatment Waste water (TWW):

Why in news? the Gujarat government has come up with a detailed plan to address the **water shortage** by limiting the supply of fresh water only for drinking and irrigation purposes, while the growing demand of industries will be met through **treated waste water**, which will be supplied by State.

About:

- In the current year, more than 750 villages in the State are supplied water through tankers due to non-availability of local sources,
- As most of the dams and reservoirs have gone dry, Owing to deficit rainfall in the last monsoon.
- Every year, the State faces water shortage, particularly for drinking water in far-flung areas in **Saurashtra and north Gujarat**, both drought-prone regions in the State.

About the Treatment Waste water:

- Treatment Wastewater is a process used to remove contaminants from wastewater or **sewage and convert it into an effluent** that can be returned to **the water cycle with minimum impact on the environment**, or directly reused.
- The latter is called water reclamation because treated wastewater can then be used for other purposes.
- The treatment process takes place in a **wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)**, often referred to as a **Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF)** or a **sewage treatment plant**.
- Pollutants in municipal wastewater (households and small industries) are removed or broken down.
- The treatment of wastewater is part of the overarching field of sanitation.
- Sanitation also includes the management of human waste and solid waste as well as **storm water (drainage) management**.
- By-products from **wastewater treatment plants**, such as screenings, grit and sewage sludge may also be treated in a wastewater treatment plant.

Related Term:

Sewage treatment plant

- Sewage treatment is the process of removing contaminants from municipal wastewater, containing mainly household sewage plus some industrial wastewater.
- Physical, chemical, and biological processes are used to remove contaminants and produce **treated wastewater** (or treated effluent) that is safe enough for release into the environment.
- A by-product of sewage treatment is a **semi-solid waste** or slurry, called **sewage sludge**. The sludge has to undergo further treatment before being suitable for disposal or application to land.

Facts for Prelims:

'IMBEX 2018-19':

- The **2nd edition of India-Myanmar bilateral Army** exercise 'IMBEX 2018-19' was held at **Chandi Mandir military station in Haryana**.
- The **aim** of this joint training programme is to train the **Myanmar** delegation for participation in **UN peace keeping** operations under the **UN flag**.
- The Indian Army has a rich experience of serving in UN peace keeping operations, being the foremost troop contributing country in the world body.
