



BELIEVERS MANTRA MAGAZINE JULY 2022

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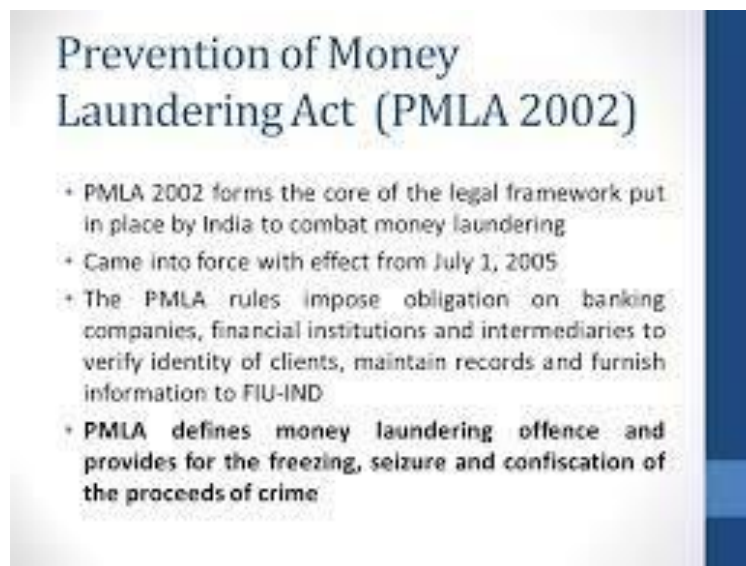
Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

Context:

- The Supreme Court has upheld several provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that deal with a wide range of issues, from what constitutes the main offence to the powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the procedure for conducting searches and seizures and effecting arrests.

International Laws:

- Since the middle of the 1980s, there has been widespread worry about how the earnings of illegal operations, such drug trafficking, are “laundered” or used to support terrorism.
- The Vienna Convention (also known as the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances), which was adopted in Vienna in 1988, was the first international convention to urge countries to enact domestic drug-trafficking laws.
- Countries were requested to forbid the conversion or transfer of property acquired via the sale of narcotics in order to hide its criminal origin as part of these regulations.
- In 1989, the G-7 Summit in Paris established the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in response to growing concerns about money laundering.



About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA):

- The PMLA was passed in 2002, but it didn't go into effect until 2005. Its clauses give India's duties to follow international agreements effect.
- Using this context, the Union government argued that the PMLA provisions and any later revisions were lawful and required in order to fulfil the nation's duties to combat the threat of money laundering.
- The Supreme Court's ruling supported the government's argument.

What is the issue?

- An internal handbook forms the foundation of ED operations. An "Enforcement Case Information Report" (ECIR), which is the equivalent of an FIR in typical circumstances, is registered.
- The manual is a private document, and the ED does not give the accused access to the ECIR. Therefore, it is uncertain why and how a money-laundering investigation is started.
- Unaware of the basis for the summons, the person is still required to appear, respond to all inquiries, and provide the requested documents.
- The petitioners stated that this gave ED employees complete discretion over any investigation, summons issuance, and decision to order a search, seizure, or arrest.

New e-waste rules threaten jobs, collection network

For Mains

The Concerns

- Currently, e-waste or electronic goods past their service dates are dismantled and viable working parts refurbished, with the rest making their way into chemical dismantling units.
- Many of these units are run out of unregulated sweatshops that employ child labour and hazardous extraction techniques.
- This electronic detritus contaminates soil and aggravates plastic pollution.



What government has done to address this

- The Environment Ministry brought the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016, which introduced a system of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- Extended Producer's Responsibility (EPR) is a concept under which producers of a commodity are tasked with the treatment or disposal of products post-consumption.

The effectiveness of E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016.

- Most companies however did not maintain an in-house unit in charge of recycling and this gave rise to a network of government-registered companies, called producer responsibility organisations (PRO).

What are PROs

- PROs act as an intermediary between manufacturers of electronic goods and formal recycling units and are technologically equipped to recycle end-of-life electronic goods safely and efficiently.
- The PROs typically bid for contracts from companies and arrange for specified quantities of goods to be recycled and provide companies certified proof of recycling that they then maintain as part of their records.
- They are also involved in consumer awareness and enabling a supply chain for recycled goods.

About e-waste

- As per WHO, as many as 12.9 million women are working in the informal waste sector globally, which exposes them to toxic e-waste and puts them and their unborn children at risk.
- Potential adverse health effects include negative birth outcomes, such as stillbirth and premature births, as well as low birth weight and length.
- Other adverse child health impacts linked to e-waste include changes in lung function, respiratory and respiratory effects, DNA damage, impaired thyroid function and increased risk of some chronic diseases later in life, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease.
- The Environment Ministry estimated 7.7 lakh tonnes of e-waste to have been generated in 2018-19 and around one million tonnes in 2019-20 of which only a fifth (about 22% in both years) has been confirmed to be “dismantled and recycled”.

Modi unveils India’s first global bullion exchange



For Prelims

- India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)
- It is the first of its kind in the country.
- This has been set up in GIFT city at Gandhinagar, Gujrat.

NSE IFSC-SGX Connect

- This will allow Investors in India and around the world to trade Nifty contracts listed on the NSE IFSC following global risk-management and clearing standards.
- The NSE had a licensing agreement with the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) for Nifty 50, Nifty Bank and three other equity indices for the trading of derivatives products on these indices on the SG



Gold and India:

- India is the world's second biggest consumer of gold.
- India is a leading importer of the metal and imported 1,069 tonnes of gold in 2021, up from 430 tonnes a year ago.
- Karnataka is the largest producer of Gold, accounting for about 80% of gold production.
- Andhra Pradesh is the second-largest producer of Gold.

Coffee (Promotion and Development Bill), 2022

Context:

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is planning to replace the 80-year-old Coffee Act with the new Coffee (Promotion and Development Bill), 2022, which has been listed for the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Background:

- During World War II, the Coffee Act, 1942 was initially introduced to safeguard the struggling Indian coffee industry from the war's negative economic effects. As

a result of its contention that many of the measures are unnecessary and overly restrictive, the government is currently attempting to repeal the law.

- To make conducting business easier and encourage the growth of these industries, the government has also recommended repealing the decades-old laws on tea, spices, and rubber and replacing them with new regulations.

What was the status before 1990s?

- The Coffee Board had complete control over the marketing of the good both in India and overseas before India's economy was liberalised in 1991. Previously, it was also in charge of collecting, storing, processing, and selling on behalf of the growers.
- With the exception of the minimal quantities permitted for domestic use and seed production, each planter was compelled to distribute their whole output to a surplus pool controlled by the Board under the pooling system established by the Coffee Act.
- The coffee had to be harvested, dried, and sent to a curing plant where the producer would be paid in advance.
- The Coffee Board would pay registered private contractors to clean, sort, and grade coffee using a point system in exchange for a charge, which would then be subtracted from the grower's payment.
- The Board then auctioned them in separate auctions, marketing 70% of the total pool for export and 30% for domestic markets.

Post Liberalisation:

- While the Board continues to be the chief governmental body to supervise the industry, it no longer maintains its monopolistic control over the marketing of Indian coffee.
- Through a series of amendments, the Board's authority was reduced, and in 1996, the pooling system was abolished and growers were allowed to directly sell to processing firms.
- The coffee market was entirely deregulated and the growers exposed to the free market.
- Since liberalisation, the Coffee Board plays more of an advisory role, and aims at increasing production, promoting further export and supporting the development of the domestic market.

Suspension of MPs

Context:

- The two Houses of Parliament have suspended 27 members this week, the most recent of which were two AAP members and an independent Rajya Sabha member on Thursday.
- Along with the independent, the Trinamool Congress, DMK, TRS, CPI, CPI(M), and AAP have all had four of its MPs from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha suspended.

Background:

- The parliamentary calendar is set by the government, not by Parliament. Therefore, it is up to the government to decide how much time will be given in Parliament for deliberations.
- Additionally, parliamentary procedure prioritises government business above other legislative issues.
- Over the past 70 years, Parliament has not altered its rules in this regard to allow opposition parties a voice in determining the discussion agenda.
- Whether political parties are in the Opposition or the ruling party/coalition determines their perspective on ongoing parliamentary operation. And in 2001, the Lok Sabha changed its rules to give the Speaker more authority to reprimand lawmakers who disturb House business.

Powers to Suspend:

- Since 1952, the procedures for maintaining the smooth operation of Parliament have not altered. First, for any unruly behaviour, the presiding officers have the authority to order an MP to leave the House.
- The presiding officer may “name” the MP if he or she continues to disturb the House. The House then has the option to introduce a motion suspending the MP until the end of the current session.
- The chairs of both Houses have access to these abilities.
- The Lok Sabha revised its rules in 2001, during the Speaker G M C Balayogi’s term, to provide the Speaker more authority to deal with serious and unruly conduct.
- According to the new regulation, the Speaker may “name” a Member of Parliament, who will then be automatically suspended for five days or the remainder of the session.
- Rajya Sabha has not incorporated this provision in its procedures.

Can Judiciary intervene?

- Article 122 of the Constitution says parliamentary proceedings cannot be questioned before a court: “No officer or Member of Parliament in whom powers are vested by or under this Constitution for regulating procedure or the conduct of business, or for maintaining order, in Parliament shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise by him of those powers”.

An Overlook into the Monkeypox Outbreak

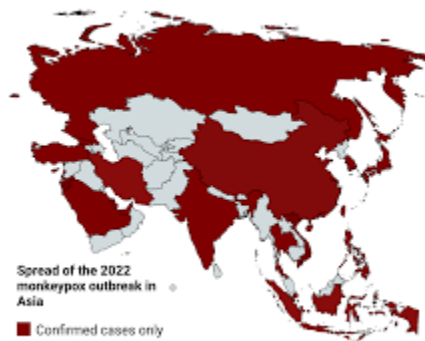
Context:

- Due to zoonotic events, monkeypox, a rare viral virus that was formerly confined to several regions in western and central Africa and travellers visiting these countries, has spread.
- World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the disease outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).



Background:

- Monkeypox is a zoonotic virus that was first identified in primates at the Statens Serum Institute in Denmark in 1958. It can infect both humans and other animals, such as rodents and other primate species.
- The virus has been widespread in portions of Central and West Africa ever since the first human case was discovered in 1970 in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mostly due to zoonotic spillovers. Despite being referred to as “monkeypox,” the disease’s true origin and origins are unknown, making the name a misnomer in many aspects.
- The virus is a member of the same virus family as variola, the smallpox virus. The illness exhibits symptoms that are comparable to those that smallpox sufferers have previously experienced.



PHEIC:

- A PHEIC is a disease epidemic that, according to the WHO, “constitutes a public health concern through the international transmission of illness” and may call for an immediate and coordinated international response.
- The continuing COVID-19 pandemic is one of seven PHEIC announcements that the WHO has made since 2009. With this designation, international efforts to stop the disease’s spread before it becomes a pandemic must be intensified.
- In addition to increased contact tracing, diagnosis, and vaccination, this would entail encouraging nations to design initiatives to restrict transmission and coordinate the sharing of essential resources like vaccines and medicines.
- The WHO will assist impacted countries in building an efficient epidemic response and surveillance system while research is ongoing to understand the epidemiology, modes of transmission, and clinical manifestations of the illness.

SC upholds powers of arrest, raid under PMLA

For Prelims

About PMLA

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act was enacted in 2002 to enforce global commitments (including Vienna convention) rather than due to domestic demands.

- The provisions of this act are applicable to all financial institutions, banks (Including RBI), mutual funds, insurance companies, and their financial intermediaries.

Other laws related to money laundering:

- Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act).
- The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988.

About Enforcement Directorate (ED):

- Established in 1956 under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 as a part of the Department of Economic Affairs.
- It was renamed as Enforcement Directorate in 1957 and became a part of Department of Revenue in 1960.
- Currently ED manages crimes related to Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
- Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) is not an FIR and hence is not necessary to give one in every case.

Guidelines on Arrests and Bail Orders

Context:

- In the recent *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI* case a division bench of the Supreme Court has issued guidelines on arrests.

Background:

- The judgement in the *Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI* case the court has ordered a strict compliance of the provisions of Section 41 and 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- Section 41 – It contains the provisions related to circumstances in which arrest can be made by the police without a warrant.

- Section 41 A – It contains the provisions for the requirement of a notice to be sent by the investigating agencies before the arrest



What is the procedure involved?

- The Police force are empowered to arrest under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- The court had declared that arrest would lead to harm to the reputation and self-esteem of a person in the Joginder Kumar (1994)
- Even in recent times, apprehensions have raised about frequent arrests and subsequent bail of accused persons.

Guidelines With regards to bail:

- The court has come out with an opinion that the Government should consider the introduction of a new legislation for the procedure of granting bails.
- The court clearly directed that bail applications ought to be disposed of within a period of two weeks except where the law grants permission to extend the time period.
- And with respect to anticipatory bail it has to be disposed of within a period of six weeks with the exception of any intervening application.

India's Space Sector

Context:

- Principal Scientific Adviser Ajay Kumar Sood stated that the government would soon come up with a new space policy to increase private sector participation in the industry.

Significance of the Space Sector:

- The space sector can hugely contribute to bolster connectivity and combat climate-related implications.
- Long-term trends in the climate and habitability of a region can be done by the satellites more precisely and information on weather forecasts can be recorded.
- For instance, by monitoring the long-term impact of climate change at regional, territorial, and national scales, governments would be able to devise more pragmatic and combative plans of action for farmers and dependent industries.
- Additionally, they can also serve as real-time monitoring and early-warning solutions against natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, wildfires, mining etc.



Boost to Connectivity:

- The space sector can address the issue of reaching more remote areas where conventional networks would require a heavy complimenting infrastructure.
- According to a report by the World Economic Forum 49% of the world's unconnected population can be connected through satellite communication.
- So, in this context, it is important to understand that the private sector investment to the space sector can boost the telecommunication services.

Boost to Sectors Associated:

- As space industry is a collaboration of aerospace, IT hardware and telecom sectors, it will help boost of the associated sectors.
- So, increase in the investments in the space sector will have carryover effects on other sectors as well.
- Apart from this, it will help boost research and development in all the above-mentioned sectors.

India in the Global Space Industry:

- US stands first in the space sector accounting to 56.4% of all the space tech companies around the world.
- Other significant stakeholders include U.K. (6.5%), Canada (5.3%), China (4.7%) and Germany (4.1%).

- India which is also a key player in the space sector stands at the sixth spot in terms of world's space-tech companies.
- It is estimated that Indian Space Industry is valued at somewhere around \$7 billion in 2019 and it is projected that it would reach \$50 billion by 2024.
- The unique feature of the Indian space sector is the cost effectiveness of its projects, one such example is the Mars orbiter mission which was completed at a cost of \$75 million which was significantly when compared to the western space industries.

Wind Power Rates May Bottom Out For Prelims

What are reverse auctions?

- When companies bid to offer the lowest price to sell a product. This is often done in case of a situation of monopsony.

What is monopsony?

- Monopsony is a market situation in which there is only one buyer and multiple sellers. In this situation the buyer decides the price or buys the product with the lowest price.
- This often happens in the case of government contracts.



For Mains

India's concerns

- India has committed to installing 60,000 MW of wind power projects by 2022, but has met only two-thirds of the target.
- While reverse auctions were the norm for all renewable energy projects, including solar and wind projects since 2015, the government's change of stance signals that the rock-bottom prices associated with clean energy projects — per unit solar power costs have fallen to ₹2.40 a unit — do not reflect the true costs of renewable energy.

About wind energy in India

- The overall installed wind power capacity was 40 GW as of 30 November 2021, making it the world's fourth-highest installed wind power capacity.
- According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), can generate 127 GW of offshore wind energy.
- More than 95% of commercially exploitable resources are located in seven states: Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

Ayush Mark Certification Scheme

- Ayush Mark Certification Scheme is operated by Quality Council of India (QCI) since 2009.
- It is a voluntary certification scheme for ASU&H products having two levels: Ayush Standard Mark and Ayush Premium Mark.
- The Ayush Standard Mark is based on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani medicines (Schedule T) as per Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945.
- AYUSH Premium Mark is based on WHO's GMP guidelines covering herbal medicines.
- For any manufacturer to qualify for AYUSH Mark Certification, compliance to the domestic regulations is a pre-requisite.



Law Panel to Examine Simultaneous Elections

The Current Issue

- The issue of holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections had been referred to the Law Commission for a practicable road map and a framework can be worked out, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju informed the Lok Sabha.
- Between 2014 and 2022, there were 50 State Assembly elections.



For Prelims

- Elections to Parliament and State Legislatures conducted by Election Commission of India.
- State Election Commissions monitor elections to municipalities and panchayaths.

For Mains

Advantages of Simultaneous Elections

- Reduction in the poll expenses, party expenses, etc. which will help save public money.
- Reduce the burden on administrative setup and security forces.
- Ensure effective implementation of the government policies and ensure that the administrative machinery is engaged in developmental activities rather than electioneering.
- Promote governance instead of populism. It is generally seen that for short term political gains from a particular assembly election, ruling politicians avoid taking a harsh long-term decision which can ultimately help the country in the long run.

- Provide more time to all the stakeholders i.e., political parties, Election Commission of India (ECI), paramilitary forces, civilians for the preparation of elections once in five years.

Concerns of Simultaneous Elections

- The synchronisation of the elections is harder due to presence of parliamentary form of government. The government is accountable to the Lower House and fall of a government often requires that there be an election for its replacement.
- It is difficult to ensure consensus among the various political parties especially regional parties regarding this issue.
- There will be increased demand Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) will double as the ECI has to provide two sets (one for election to the Legislative Assembly and second for that to the Lok Sabha).
- There will also be an additional requirement of the polling staff and for better security arrangements.

Direct Sowing of Rice (DSR)

Context:

- The Punjab government has announced a Rs 1,500 per acre incentive to farmers for adopting the DSR method.
- But despite this there is a significant decline in the sowing of rice in the DSR method.

About:

- The state has seen 85.7% decline in DSR area from the last season and also Punjab is long way away from its target of Direct Sowing of Rice (DSR) for this year (as it could only achieve 6.7% of the total target).
- This has happened (ahead of paddy sowing) despite the state government announcing a Rs 1,500 per acre incentive to the farmers for adopting the DSR method and earmarking Rs 450 crore for the purpose.

Why DSR?

- In Punjab, rice (paddy and basmati) is grown in over 30 lakh hectares of farmland every year.
- The state government has set a target of bringing 12 lakh hectares (29.64 lakh acres) under DSR, which does not require puddled fields for transplanting paddy nursery and flood irrigation.

- The ideal time for DSR for paddy (non-basmati) crop is from June 1 to June 15 and for basmati (aromatic rice) from mid-June to June-end.
- With this much area, Punjab's DSR area is 93.3% down from the target and if one compares it with last year's area then also it is 85.7% down.
- In the previous year, 5.62 lakh hectares was under DSR in the state and that was also the highest ever area under DSR in the history of the state.
- The main reason for encouraging the DSR method is to save the ground water, adopting to this method would save upto 15 to 20% of groundwater.



Why Decline?

- During the sowing time through the DSR method, there were frequent power cuts and irregular supply of water from the canals.
- Due to power cuts the tube wells also could not be used and sowing through the DSR required moist
- And moreover the outputs would be different in different types of soil and based on the region.

Issues Surrounding the National Emblem

Context:

- The National Emblem which has come up over the new Parliament house has become a matter of conflict, many have opposed it claiming that there is deviation from the original emblem.



Background:

- The national emblem which consists of the Four Asiatic lions and with three visible to the viewer depicts courage, power and pride.
- It is known that the National Emblem the National Emblem is inspired from the Sarnath Lion Capital of the Mauryan emperor Asoka.
- This was built in 250 BC to commemorate the first sermon of Gautama Buddha.
- It is known from history that Buddha revealed the four Noble Truths of life in this first sermon at Sarnath.
- This seven-foot structure is made of polished sand stone.
- It is mounted on a circular abacus which has tiny sculptures in it including a horse a lion, a bull and an elephant which are moving in a clockwise direction.
- These animal figures are separated by a wheel, which is believed to be the dharmachakra of Buddhism.
- This abacus was mounted on an inverted lotus which is a symbol of Buddhism.

Reason behind its adoption:

- The Constituent Assembly deliberately chose the Sarnath Lion Capital as the National Emblem because it epitomizes power, courage and confidence of a just born free nation.
- The quote – “Satyameva Jayate” (Truth alone triumphs) is chosen from the Mundaka Upanishad.
- The persons who created this were the students of the well known artist Nandlal Bose, among them were Jagdish Mittal, Kripal Singh Shekhawat, Gauri Bhanja and Dinanath Bhargava.

Cheetahs likely to arrive in Kuno before August 15

For Prelims

African Cheetah:

- IUCN Status – Vulnerable
- CITES – Appendix 1



Asiatic Cheetah:

- IUCN Status – Critically Endangered
- CITES – Appendix 1
- The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.

Kuno National Park

- Located in Madhya Pradesh. Established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1981 and given national park status in 2018.
- Mostly contain dry deciduous trees.
- Was proposed as a site for introduction of Asiatic Lions.

Govt of India to roll out Schemes for Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry with Focus on MSMEs and Clusters

For Prelims

- Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry' (SPI) will have multiple schemes under it
- Pharmaceuticals Industry Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS): The MSME unit shall have the option to choose from either Capital subsidy or Interest subvention.
- Assistance to Pharmaceuticals Industry for Common Facilities' (APICF): Support creation of common facilities like Testing Labs, Common Effluent Treatment plants and other such common facilities by providing Govt support in the form of capital grant to the extent of up to 70 per cent subject to a ceiling of a maximum of Rs. 20 crores.



Jan Samarth Portal available on 24/7 basis

For Prelims

- Under Ministry of Finance.
- Jan Samarth Portal presently hosts loans under 13 credit linked Government Schemes.
- Salient features of the “Jan Samarth” Portal

1) It connects all stakeholders like beneficiaries, financial institutions, Central/State Government Agencies, & Nodal Agencies on a common platform.

- 2) Applicant can initially access 13 schemes through a single platform.
- 3) Intuitive guidance to applicants for checking subsidy eligibility.
- 4) Auto recommendation of the best suitable scheme for beneficiary.
- 5) Digital approval of loan application based on digital verifications.
- 6) Beneficiary can track real time status of their loan application.

Claims paid under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna-PMFBY

For Prelims

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna-PMFBY:

- Administered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It aims to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidies. Even if the balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- It is optional to all farmers.



US Tech Sanctions on China

Context:

- China has been facing technical sanctions from USA, this also coincides with the rise of China's Digital Silk Road (DSR) enterprise under the Belt and Road Initiative.



Background:

- In the recent past, the technological sector of China has been facing these challenges especially from USA.
- The acceleration in tech sanctions by the US comes amidst the rise of China's Digital Silk Road (DSR) enterprise under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- One of the major characteristic feature of the DSR includes Public-Private partnership in critical information infrastructure.
- Hikvision, like many private Chinese companies, has collaborated with Beijing on several of DSR's undertakings, particularly in Africa. Sanctions by the US, thus, impact these BRI projects.

Sanctions on some of the Tech Giants

- The Digital Silk Road has shifted the world's attention from BRI's hard infrastructure projects to its projects in the technological sector

So, it has led to the target by the US through some of the policies including:

1. National Defence Authorization Act 2019,
2. Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act 2020, and the
3. Hong Kong Autonomy Act 2020, which have imposed sanctions on China-based entities.

Are the private companies aiding China's Digital Silk Road initiative?

- The companies including Huawei, Alibaba, Tencent, Baidu, Hikvision and ZTE have worked in tandem with China's Digital Silk Road initiative.

- To quote an example Huawei, the tech giant is setting up 5G infrastructure in many BRI countries.
- And also other major Chinese firms have been collaborating with several African and Latin American countries in various sectors including 5G, smart city fibre-optic cables, etc.

India's Climate Imperative

The current issue

- The rise in number of climate related calamities such as heatwaves that scorched Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and New Delhi this year; torrential downpours in south India have again shifted the focus towards Climate Change from pandemic.

The warning signs

- Temperatures over the Indian Ocean have risen by over 1°C since the 1950s, increasing extreme weather events.
- India is the fourth worst-hit in climate migration.
- Heat waves in India have claimed an estimated 17,000 lives since the 1970s.
- Labour losses from rising heat, by one estimate, could reach ₹1.6 lakh crore annually if global warming exceeds 2°C, with India among the hardest hit.



Mitigation Measures

- Promote agricultural practices which are not water-intensive and to support afforestation which will help control global warming.
- Financial transfers can be targeted to help farmers plant trees and buy equipment — for example, for drip irrigation that reduces heavy water usage.
- Insurance schemes can help mitigate some of the risks of extreme heat faced by industrial, construction and agricultural workers to insurers.

- Climate-resilient agriculture calls for diversification — for example, the cultivation of multiple crops on the same farm.
- Southern States need stronger guidelines to avoid construction in locations with drainages. It is vital to map flood-risk zones to manage vulnerable regions.
- Communities can build round-shaped houses, considering optimum aerodynamic orientation to reduce the strength of the winds.
- Management of dams can exacerbate glacier lake outbursts and floods. Nearly 295 dams in India are more than 100 years old and need repairs.
- India's share in disaster management should be raised to 2.5% of GDP.

Measures to reduce global warming

- Leading emitters, including India, must move away from fossil fuels. But India has made slow progress in choosing 2070 as its target for net zero emissions.
- A big part of climate action lies in protecting and expanding forest coverage.
- Enforce Glasgow declaration on forest protection which India has signed.

Despite SC Alarm, Bail is Still Not the Norm



For Mains

Right to Bail

- Bail is not defined in CrPC but offences are classified into bailable and non bailable offence.

- Section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, lays down that a person accused of a bailable offence under I.P.C. can be granted bail.
- On the other hand, Section 437 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 lays down that the accused does not have the right to bail in non-bailable offences.

Model Law suggested by Supreme Court

- Supreme Court is asking the government to framing a special legislation on the lines of the Bail Act of the United Kingdom, 1976.

What is the requirement for such a law

- Two thirds of the people incarcerated in jail have not been convicted of any offence and are undertrials
- The court also linked the idea of indiscriminate arrests to magistrates ignoring the rule of “bail, not jail” to a colonial mindset.

Why is Kerala protesting Supreme Court’s ESZ notification

For Prelims

- Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala
- Established in 2020.



For mains

What is ESZ

- Eco-Sensitive Zones or Ecologically Fragile Areas are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ESZs are notified by MoEFCC, Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986.
- The purpose of declaring eco-sensitive zones around protected areas is for creating some kind of a 'Shock Absorber' for the protected area.

Issue for Kerala

- Nearly 30% of Kerala is forested land and the Western Ghats occupies 48% of the State.
- Moreover, there is a network of lakes, canals, wetlands and the 590-kilometre-long coastline, which are all governed by a series of environmental conservation and protection legislations, leaving little space for its 3.5 crore population to occupy.
- Kerala has the third highest population density in the country with over 850 people per square kilometre.

What state is demanding

- The Kerala State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Central government to exclude the State's human habitations, farmlands and public institutions from the purview of the Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ).

RBI's Interventions in the Payment System



Context:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued a circular that detailed 'additional arrangement' for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports and imports in Indian rupees.

How it works?

- Under this system, Indian importers could pay bills for the supply of products or services from the foreign seller in rupees to the Special Vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country.
- Proceeds from the balances in the designated vostro account of the correspondent bank of the partner country shall be remitted to Indian exporters in rupees.

About:

- Vostro accounts have existed for some time. Because exporters normally prefer settlements in a strong and stable currency, they were probably not extensively used.
- First, the RBI has said unequivocally that the banks of partner nations may mutually agree upon the exchange of communications in a safe, secure, and efficient manner.

- Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, the Belgian-based SWIFT, or Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, started barring Russian banks from using this channel for financial transactions.
- The intention was to make doing business with the rest of the world for Russian entities complicated and time-consuming.

What will be the impact?

- The new interventions by RBI will lead to ease of doing business with the Russian entities.
- Russia which has a favourable balance of trade with India would like to make payments in currencies other than the dollar and the euro.
- This is significant time when Russia is facing economic sanctions from the western countries.
- It would ease the downward pressure on the rupee, which has been sliding to record lows frequently in the recent past.

Pakistan and the TTP

Context:

- The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has proclaimed that it would not back down from its primary demand for reversal of the merger of the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province in 2018.

Background:

- The negotiations between the two parties have been held Since 2007. However, the talks have failed to bring stability and peace.
- The most recent round of negotiations started in 2021 when Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi said that the government would consider granting amnesty to TTP militants who lay down their arms, agree to uphold the Constitution, and have not continued to engage in “criminal acts.”
- After that, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) administration under Imran Khan declared that it was in negotiations with the TTP in order for its members to give up their weapons and mend fences in order “to be able to live like ordinary citizens.”

What is TTP’s demand?

- The basic demand of the Taliban has been the reversal of the merging of the two tribal provinces of Pakistan including FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- The TTP is not a homogeneous organisation it comprises of various ethnic groups, the major one being the Mehsud Group.
- The Mehsud Group mainly consists of the Pashtuns an ethnic group present mostly in FATA and the KP regions of Pakistan.
- Due to the concentration of Pashtuns living in the FATA regions, both native and migrant, whose particular political grievances the TTP exploits, the TTP has recruitment and operational leverage.
- Second, the FATA region gives the TTP operational sway because of its cross-border, cross-national operating capability and its capacity to use Afghanistan as a safe haven by taking advantage of its connections with ethnically terrorist organisations like the Haqqani Network.

Afghan's role:

- In the ongoing talks, the Afghan Taliban have served as a mediator.
- They have insisted that they won't go against the TTP at Pakistan's request and that Islamabad would have to make a lot of concessions if a deal were to be reached with the organisation.
- The Taliban's participation in the talks is due to Pakistan's efforts to pressure the TTP into talks and its ongoing support of the TTP, which is valued for its assistance in fighting with the Taliban against the United States and the former Afghan government.
- The Taliban's stand, however advantageous, could potentially represent a threat if the TTP gains control of the full land it is requesting, therefore their position is still uncertain.

Iran, Belarus to be Newest SCO Members

For Prelims

- Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- It is a successor organization to Shanghai Five, which was a mutual security agreement signed by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
- On 2001 these countries and Uzbekistan announced the formation of a new collective aimed at increasing the political and economic cooperation in the Eurasian region.
- This resulted in the formation of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

- India and Pakistan joined the organization in 2017.



For Mains.

Significance

- The addition of Iran and Belarus can be seen as a move to change SCO into a counter for the US led alliance especially NATO.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION



Why it may not work

- However, India as a founding member of Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) is not likely to support a move which can be seen as targeting the US.
- The current Indo-China relationship is also not conducive to creating a cohesive alliance.
- While Indo-Russian relationship is still strong as it has always been, the lack of economic ties between the two is a cause for concern.
- Meanwhile China has been the largest trading partner for Russia for many years and it will remain the same for many more to come.

- With India moving closer to the West with the creation of organisations such as QUAD and I2U2, it is unlikely that SCO in its current format will ever take a hard stance against the West.

Why SCO is important?

- The geostrategic importance of the members of SCO cannot be overstated.
- Central Asia is a region rich in resources such as Crude oil and even Uranium.
- However, due to their continentality they cannot export sufficient quantities to the global market.
- Hence, if a SCO led connectivity project is created, all the countries in the region including India will be greatly benefiting.

Monkeypox: Kerala on high alert

For Prelims.

- Monkeypox: It is caused by monkeypox virus.
- It is a zoonotic disease (transmitted from animals to humans).
- First detected in the African nation of 'Democratic Republic of Congo.'
- Fatality rate is very high (approximately 10%).
- No vaccine has yet been created for the disease.

THE HINDU

Monkeypox

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Infection can be divided into two periods

Invasion period
(lasts 0-5 days)
Characterised by
Fever | Intense headache
| Lymphadenopathy | Back
pain | Myalgia | Intense
asthenia

Skin eruption usually
begins within 1-3 days
of fever

- The rash tends to be more concentrated on the face and extremities rather than on the trunk



How it spreads

From an animal to a person

- Animal bites or scratches
- Eating products made of infected animals
- Direct contact with body fluids or rashes

From a person to a person

- Direct contact with rashes, scabs or body fluids
- Extended close contact (more than four hours)

SOURCE: WHO

The Jerusalem Declaration

Context:

- The U.S. and Israel signed a new security pact on Thursday reinforcing their common front against Iran, as President Joe Biden pledged to use “all” American power to stop the Islamic republic from acquiring nuclear weapons.



Background:

- In 2018, Donald Trump, then-president of the United States, scuttled a historic agreement that placed restrictions on Iran’s shady nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of sanctions.
- The agreement has not moved forward since March.

What is the Iran Nuclear Deal?

- The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is another name for it (JCPOA).
- Iran and P5+1+EU engaged in extensive negotiations between 2013 and 2015 that led to the JCPOA (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU).
- As part of the agreement, Tehran consented to drastically reduce its stockpiles of heavy water, enriched uranium, and centrifuges—all essential components for nuclear bombs.

About:

- When the IAEA announced that Iran had fulfilled its initial commitments in early 2016, the Iran Nuclear Deal got off to a strong start. In response, the United States, the EU, and the UN lifted their sanctions.
- Iran is able to increase its oil exports because to the US lifting secondary sanctions on oil under President Obama.
- The European Union and the United States also unfroze Iranian assets totalling \$100 billion.

- But when President Trump withdrew from the JCPOA and reinstated severe banking and oil sanctions, the agreement almost fell apart.

Way Forward:

- Iran warned the United States and its allies against undermining regional security.
- This might escalate the conflict in the region and pose a threat to regional security India which has historical ties with Iran will find it difficult to balance with the political equations in the region owing to its growing ties with Israel.

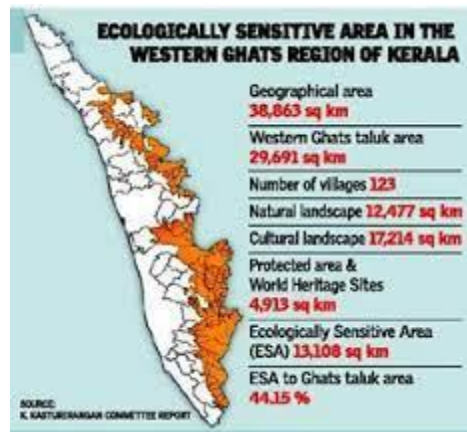
Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA)

Context:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had issued a draft notification which demarcated large parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and as eco-sensitive areas.

About ESA:

- A report from the Kasturirangan committee from 2013 recommended classifying 37 percent of the Western Ghats, or an area of 59,940 sq. km, as ESA.
- This led to the introduction of many proposals, which the neighboring states later rejected.



What is in the new draft?

- In the five states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, and Tamil Nadu, 46,832 sq. km are designated as ESA in the Western Ghats by the draught notification.

- Kerala is not included in the draught notification and had already started the practice of physically verifying the ESA boundaries in the state.
- In comparison to the 13,108 sq. km proposed by the K Kasturirangan panel, which released its findings in 2013, the ESA approved by the Kerala state government is spread over an area of 9,993.7 square kilometers.

What are the curbs?

- According to the draught notification, all mining, quarrying, and sand mining is prohibited within the ESA.
- Within five years of the final notification's issuance or the expiration of the current mining lease, all active mines must be phased out.
- In addition, it forbids the construction of new "Red" category industries as well as the development of existing "Red" category factories in the sensitive area.
- These include operations like coal liquefaction and petrochemical manufacture that have a Pollution Index score of 60 or above.
- The regions will also be off limits for the building of new townships and neighborhood initiatives.

About the Kasturirangan Panel:

- The panel was established in 2012 with the mission of bringing "synergy" between the objectives of preserving the environment and biodiversity, while sustaining the needs and aspirations of the local and indigenous people, of sustainable development, and of environmental integrity of the region.
- This high-level working group made recommendations for upcoming actions to be taken to stop further deterioration of the Ghats' delicate environment.
- The research had advocated a complete prohibition on thermal power projects, red category businesses, mining, and quarrying.
- Additionally, it was noted that before approval is granted, the effects of infrastructure projects on the forest and animals should be researched.

Current Account Deficit (CAD)

Context:

- The Finance Ministry has asserted that the current account deficit (CAD) deteriorate this year mainly due to rising trade deficits.

What is CAD?

- A *current account deficit* occurs when the total value of goods and services a country imports exceeds the total value of goods and services it exports.

- Whereas a fiscal deficit is the budget shortfall, in CAD a country is importing more than the value of its exports.

Background:

- The authorities are facing the challenge to continue to walk the tightrope of balancing inflation and growth concerns.
- The ministry has mentioned that increasing Gold imports has exerted pressure on the Current Account Deficit.
- The ministry has also warned that without sustained efforts to reduce the prices of food and energy commodities then India's CAD will deteriorate in 2022-23 on account of costlier imports and tepid exports

Balance of Payments:

The two main components to calculate the Balance of Payment(BoP) of a country are:

1. Current Account –

- It shows the value of imports and exports of the visibles (merchandise or goods) and also the invisibles (non-merchandise), it includes the services, transfers and income.

2. Capital Account –

- It contains the income and the capital expenditure of the country.
- It shows the total flow of investment from both the private and the public players.
- It includes inflows from Foreign Direct Investment, Foreign Portfolio Investment and the external commercial borrowings.

Forest Conservation Rules

Context:

- The political parties have sparred earlier this week on the latest version of the Forest Conservation Rules.
- Congress spokesperson, Jairam Ramesh, alleged that the latest version of the rules, updated last month, allowed forest land to be diverted to industry without settling questions of the rights of forest dwellers and tribals who resided on those lands.



About the Forest Conservation Rules:

- The Forest Conservation Act (FCA) of 1980 is put into effect in accordance with the Forest Conservation Rules.
- They outline the process to be followed when diverting forest land for non-forestry purposes such as mining, railroad construction, road construction, and highway development.
- The Forest Conservation Act's main objectives are to save forests and animals, prevent State governments from seizing forest property for private ventures, and work toward expanding the area covered by forests.
- The Central government must approve land diverting for forest land that is larger than five hectares. This is done through a specifically formed committee known as the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC).
- This committee looks at whether the user agency, or those who have requested forest land, have provided a compelling argument for the upheaval of that particular parcel of land, whether they have a plan in place to ensure that the ensuing damage — from felling trees in that area, denuding the local landscape — will be minimal, and whether the said piece of land doesn't harm wildlife habitat.
- Once the FAC approves (or rejects) a proposal, it is sent to the State government in charge of the area where the land is located, which is then responsible for ensuring that the requirements of the Forest Right Act, 2006, a separate Act that safeguards the rights of tribal members and forest dwellers to their land, are met.

Current Status:

- The Centre claims that the new regulations "streamline" the approvals procedure.
- The regulations allow for the cultivation of plantations by private parties, who can then sell them to businesses that must satisfy compensating forestation requirements as land.
- The government claims that this will both assist India in increasing its forest cover and address the issue of the States' inability to locate land within their borders for compensatory reasons
- The most recent area of dispute, though it has generated its own debate, is the absence of language in the amended Forest Conservation Rules describing what would happen to indigenous people and communities that live in the forest whose land would be divided up for construction projects.

I2U2

Context:

- PM Modi will be participating in an I2U2 Summit, along with Israel PM Yair Lapid, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and US President Joseph R. Biden. The first Leaders' Summit of I2U2 will be held virtually on 14 July 2022.

Background:

Initially the forum was called as International Forum for Economic Cooperation in the year 2021.

The I2U2 members are:

1. India
2. Israel
3. UAE
4. USA



- India has good ties with west Asia since decades, since 2014 India has also increased its engagement with Israel.
- After the Abraham Accords, Israel has also started to integrate with the region specifically with UAE, Morocco and Bahrain.

Objectives:

The countries have identified a few common areas of interest :

1. Water
2. Energy
3. Transportation
4. Space

5. Health
6. Food Security

- Apart from this, the grouping has also discussed on various initiatives including modernisation of infrastructure , public health, green technologies including exploring the low carbon development avenues.

What are Abraham Accords?

- The Abraham Accords mediated by USA has led to normalisation of diplomatic ties between Israel and the countries in the region.
- This has marked an important shift in the policies of the region which has a huge impact on international relations.
- This has been the first Arab-Israeli peace deal in 26 years.
- The Abraham Accords also open the door for Muslims around the world to visit the historic sites in Israel and to peacefully pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the third holiest site in Islam.
- Bringing Israel, the UAE and Bahrain together reflects their shared concern about Iran's rising influence in the region and development of ballistic missiles.

Assessing juvenility, a 'delicate task': SC

For Prelims

- Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 requires a "preliminary assessment" to be done of the mental and physical capacity of juveniles, aged between 16 and 18, who are involved in serious crimes.

For Mains

What is the current issue?

- The "delicate task" of deciding whether juveniles aged between 16 and 18, accused of heinous offences such as murder, can be tried like adults should be based on "meticulous psychological investigation" rather than be left to the discretion and perfunctory "wisdom" of juvenile justice boards and children's courts across the country, Supreme Court said in a recent verdict.

Current Situation

- Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 mandates a "preliminary assessment" to be done of the mental and physical

capacity of juveniles, aged between 16 and 18, who are involved in serious crimes.

- The assessment is meant to measure a juvenile's ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he or she allegedly committed the offence.
- If the Juvenile Justice Board decides that the juvenile should not be treated as an adult, then the case would be heard by itself.
- In that case, if the child is found guilty, he would be sent to juvenile care for three years.
- However, if the Board decides to refer the case to the children's court for trial as an adult, the juvenile, if guilty, would face punishment up to life imprisonment depending on the severity of the crime.

Concerns

- The report of the preliminary assessment decides the question of transferring the case of a child between 16 and 18 years of age to the children's court.
- This decision should not be taken without the conducting a meticulous psychological evaluation.

Suggestion.

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights can issue guidelines to be followed in the determination of Juvenile status of an accused.
- The Board which conducts the assessment of the child should have at least one child psychologist.
- They can also take the assistance of experienced psychologists or psychosocial workers.

India ranks 135 out of 146 in Gender Gap Index

For Prelims,

- Gender Gap Index released by the World Economic Forum.
- Index is a part of The Global Gender Report, 2022.

The gender score | India ranked 135 in gender parity out of 146 countries, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 released by the World Economic Forum. A look at India's ranking in the four sub-indexes based on which the overall ranking was determined

India	Rank 2022*
Global gender gap index	135
Economic participation and opportunity	143
Educational attainment	107
Health and survival	146
Political empowerment	48

*out of 146 countries



For Mains,

Concerns

- The Global Gender Report, 2022 says it will now take 132 years to reach gender parity.
- India ranks poorly among its neighbors and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126).
- Only the performance of Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) was worse than India in South Asia.
- In 2021, India ranked 140 out of 156 nations.
- The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks gender parity across four key dimensions or sub-indices — economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment.
- It measures scores on a 0-to-100 scale, which can be interpreted as the distance covered towards parity or the percentage of the gender gap that has been closed.
- India ranks 146 in health and survival, 143 in economic participation and opportunity, 107 in educational attainment and 48 in political empowerment.
- The report notes that India's score of 0.629 was its seventh-highest score in the past 16 years.
- India also "recovered" ground since 2021 in economic participation and opportunity, though the report goes on to add that the labor force participation shrunk for both men (by -9.5 percentage points) and women (-3 percentage points).

Ministry takes up transgender pilot's case

For Prelims

- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019:
- The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
- A transgender person needs to make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
- It calls for establishing a National Council for Transgender persons (NCT).

For Mains

The Current Issue

- The Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has declared, the decision of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to deny a commercial pilot license to a transgender **candidate** is "discriminatory" and 'violates' the law on the rights of transgender people.
- Criticism for Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act of 2019
- The act does not differentiate between transgender, transsexuals and intersex persons and proposes a 'one size fits all formula'
- There is a lack of enforceability which dilutes the provisions of the act.
- The provision for certification can be seen as infringing on a person's right of self-determination.
- The healthcare provisions are seen as a step forward but not enough as there is still lack of awareness in even the medical communities.

At above 7%, retail inflation stays stubborn

For prelims

- Retail inflation is also called Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- CPI is released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

There are 4 Types of CPI

1. CPI for Industrial Workers (IW).
2. CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL).
3. CPI for Rural Labourer (RL).
4. CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).

- CPI (IW), CPI (AL), CPI (RL), is compiled by Labor bureau but CPI(Rural/Urban/Combined) is compiled by NSO. CPI is used as Headline inflation.
- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Does not include services in its basket for calculation. The basket includes 3 major groups viz Primary Articles, Fuel and Power and Manufactured products. Maximum weightage for Manufactured Products while minimum given for Fuel and Power.

For Mains,

The current issue

- India's retail inflation inched lower to 7.01% in June, from May's 7.04%, but stayed stuck above the 7% mark for the third straight month.
- Price gains also exceeded the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6% for the sixth month.

Measures to control inflation.

- RBI is tasked with controlling inflation in India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended in May 2016 to provide a legal framework for implementing effective inflation-targeting measures.
- This changed RBI's dual role of controlling inflation along with maintaining development and allowed them to fully concentrate on controlling inflation.
- RBI uses multiple methods to achieve this aim such as,

a. Quantitative Tools

1. Statutory Liquidity ratio (SLR): To combat inflation, the RBI must raise the SLR. Higher SLR means banks need to keep a larger amount as liquid assets. As a result, the money available to be lend to the market declines, lending rates rise. Market liquidity will shrink, as a result, inflation is controlled.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR): CRR works in a similar fashion as SLR where the only difference is that the reserve must be in form of cash. Also, this money is kept in a special RBI vault instead of with the banks themselves. This also results in a reduction in total liquidity available in the market.
3. Repo Rate: Repo Rate is the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks. Increase of repo rate results in reduction of borrowing of commercial banks from RBI. This in turn results in lower liquidity available in market.
4. Reverse Repo rate: It encourages banks to park funds with the RBI rather than lend to the private sector by giving higher rates of interest.
5. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF): Allows banks to borrow money with an interest rate above the repo rate. Increasing MSF rate will result in higher cost of business for banks and will result in lower liquidity supply in market.

6. Open Market Operation (OMO): RBI directly intervenes and sells government bonds to reduce liquidity in market.
7. Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS): Similar to OMO, here also RBI sells government bonds to reduce liquidity. However, this is done to tackle a sudden rise in liquidity rather than normal inflation.

b. Qualitative Tools

1. Fixed Margin Requirement: Margin Requirement refers to the percentage of value of a collateral that can be given out as loan. A higher FMR means for the same collateral, the money you can receive will be reduced.
2. Moral Suasion: RBI can nudge the Banks to increase their lending rates so which will result in reduced liquidity in the market.
3. Credit Control: RBI can direct banks to increase lending to a specific sector. This can help to increase production hence reducing supply side inflation.

The Search for Dark Matter



For Prelims

- Many physicists strongly believe that the entire visible part of the universe forms only 5% of all matter in it. They believe the rest is made up of dark matter and dark energy.
- What is Dark Matter
- Dark matter is made up of particles that do not have a charge and do not emit light.
- LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) is the most sensitive dark matter detector in the world. In Arizona USA.
- Four fundamental forces of Universe: strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, electromagnetic force, and gravitation.

- Dark Matter is detected by the discrepancy between the calculated and observed value of velocities in rotating galaxies.
- Bullet cluster: formed through the merging of two galaxy clusters.

PM unveils National Emblem atop New Parliament Building

For Prelims

- The National Emblem: also known as Lion Capital
- Taken from Asoka's Pillar at Sanchi Stupa in Sarnath near Varanasi.
- Built by Mauryan Emperor Asoka.
- The Pillar is made using Polished Sandstone.
- It was built to commemorate Buddha's first sermon after getting enlightened at Sarnath called Dharmachakrapravartan.
- The original Pillar had 5 components
- The shaft; made of a single stone
- A lotus base bell
- A drum on the base bell with 4 animals proceeding clockwise (abacus)
- Figures of 4 lions which are seated back-to-back on a circular abacus.
- The crowning part, a large wheel which represents Dharmachakra in Buddhism (the wheel of dhamma/dharma).

Why the World Needs Peace in Ukraine

For Prelims

- Countries bordering Black Sea: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.
- Kerch Strait: Connects Black Sea to Sea of Azov aka Straits of Yenikale.
- Crimean Bridge: Built by Russia to connect Russian Mainland with Kerch region of Crimea. It has a length of 19 km.



For Mains

Concerns for India.

- Western sanctions on Russia have led to a major increase in energy prices, which has also impacted India heavily since we depend on imports to meet 80% of our crude oil needs.
- The war has taken two-thirds of the world's wheat exports off the markets, sending food prices soaring.
- India used to import 75% of its sunflower seeds and oil from Ukraine; that is now down to zero.
- This has exacerbated the current economic situation which is still reeling from the occasional outbursts of Omicron.
- The recent lockdown in China due to covid resurgence has again put the global supply lines under stress.
- This along with the recent financial crisis in Sri Lanka which is one of the trade hubs along Indian ocean has again put major stress on supply lines.

What India can do?

- India can leverage its strong relations with both the West and Russia to reach an amicable solution to the war.

Godavari in Spate, Flood Warning Issued

For Prelims:

About Godavari:

- Also called Dakshin Ganga.
- It is the largest Peninsular River system and second longest river in India after Ganga.
- Origin: From Trimbakeshwar near Nashik in Maharashtra and flows into Bay of Bengal.
- Tributaries: Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga, Wardha), Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.
- Kumbh Mela is conducted on the banks of Godavari in Nashik.
- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River.
- It was originally called the Pranahita-Chevella project.
- Polavaram Irrigation Project is another major irrigation project over Godavari River.
- This will allow Godavari River to be linked with Krishna River through canals.



India's Trade Deficit

Context:

- The chasm between exports and imports has widened in the first quarter of this year, with the cumulative trade deficit already hitting \$70 billion, translating into an average of \$23.3 billion a month.

Background:

- While the crisis between Russia and Ukraine has supported commodity prices globally, the knock-on effects of out-of-control inflation are harming trade demand and prospects for global economy.
- The “flat” exports in June are a result of a general decline in foreign demand.
- India is not the only country experiencing a trade deficit; even Germany, a super-exporter, experienced one in May, albeit a small one.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce, India’s imports increased last year along with its exports.
- The total value of goods exported in 2021–22 was \$422 billion, a significant increase over the \$313 billion pre-COVID levels in 2019–20.

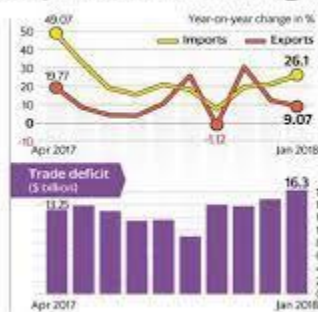
What are the reasons for decreasing exports?

- While the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which began in late February of this year, has supported commodity prices globally, the knock-on effects of runaway inflation are harming trade demand and prospects for global economy.
- According to a statement from Nomura, the “lacklustre” exports in June are a reflection of the overall slowdown in global demand.
- Weakness was seen in the exports of engineering items, chemicals, medicines, cotton yarn, and plastic goods.
- These four categories, which are among India’s top ten exports, saw a decrease in outbound shipments.
- Petroleum exports were \$0.7 billion lower than levels in May 2022, although being an impressive 98 percent higher than in June 2021.

Trade deficit jumps to 56-month high

India's trade deficit shot up to a 56-month high of \$16.3 billion in January as imports of precious stones and crude oil surged, while growth in exports slowed down. Data released by the commerce ministry showed that merchandise exports rose 9.1% in January while merchandise imports rose 26.1%. Imports of precious stones rose 55.7%, while those of petroleum increased 42.6%. During the first 10 months of the financial year, the trade deficit expanded to \$131 billion.

Source: Commerce Ministry



Way Forward:

- The decline in exports could quicken in the upcoming months as numerous developed economies are predicted to enter recession this year.
- The weakening rupee will continue to make imports costlier while slowing exports may not be able to capitalise enough on it.

Bharat New Car Assessment Program (Bharat-NCAP)

Context:

- Recently, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari approved a Draft GSR (general statutory rules) Notification seeking comments on a proposal to introduce the Bharat New Car Assessment Program (Bharat-NCAP).

About:

- The New Car Assessment Programs (NCAP), which are based on a set of standard criteria and practises, offer trustworthy information regarding a vehicle's crash safety.
- This therefore aids in the establishment of automobiles in foreign markets.
- Based on factors including Adult Occupant Protection (AOP), Child Occupant Protection (COP), and Safety Assist Technologies, Bharat NCAP would assign vehicles between one and five stars (SAT).



What are the advantages?

- The tests done under Bharat New Car Assessment Program will increase the export-worthiness of vehicles.
- And also it will instill competition on safety parameters among manufacturers.
- As a result of which, it will boost the consumer confidence which will lead to increase in sales.

What is the purpose behind it?

- Based on a set of standard criteria and practices, New Car Assessment Programs (NCAPs) offer trustworthy information regarding the crash safety of a vehicle on a global scale.

- This therefore aids in the establishment of automobiles in foreign markets.
- They differ from country-specific motor standards in that the latter limit their evaluations to a vehicle's roadworthiness and do not always consider how well it would protect its occupants in an accident.
- However, a car's NCAP score of 0 cannot bar it from being sold anywhere.
- Global NCAP is a standardized platform establishing cooperation and coordination among NCAPs internationally whereas regional NCAPs take into account specific local conditions.

Cloudbursts in Amarnath

Context:

- Highly-localized rains produced flooding in Amarnath, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in at least 16 fatalities and more than 20 injuries. Those who perished were at a camp close to the cave, a revered location.

About:

- A cloudburst is defined as an intense downpour that lasts only a brief time and is occasionally accompanied by hail and thunder. It is defined by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) as unexpected precipitation that exceeds 100mm (or 10 cm) per hour across a region of land that is between 20 and 30 square kilometres. Floods may occur in the event of such significant rainfall.
- Basically, all instances of cloudbursts involve heavy rain in a short period, but all instances of heavy rain in a short period are not cloudbursts if they do not fit this criterion.



Vulnerable region:

- There is little concrete information on the precise amount of cloudbursts that occur in India, according to experts, and it is challenging to anticipate when they will occur.
- However, due to the geography and altitude, they are more likely to appear in mountainous areas.
This is because the upward migration of the extremely warm stream of air prevents some saturated clouds that are ready to condense into rain from producing rain in mountainous places.
- Raindrops are transported aloft by the air stream and do not fall downhill. Existing droplets enlarge and new raindrops are created.
- After a while, the cloud can no longer support the rains, and they all fall to the ground at once in a sudden flash.

Monkey Pox

Context:

- A recent study has found that people can be infected with monkeypox without showing any of the typical or atypical symptoms.

What is Monkey pox?

- It is a viral zoonotic disease (transmission from animals to people) known as monkeypox because it is a pox-like illness among monkeys. It is widespread in Nigeria.
- It is brought on by the monkeypox virus, a species of the Orthopoxvirus family.
- The virus's original host is still unknown. However, several reports of the illness in animals exist.
- Monkeys and apes, a variety of rodents (including rats, mice, squirrels, and prairie dogs), and rabbits are among the animals known to carry the monkeypox virus.

How is it transmitted?

- Direct contact with an infected animal's blood, body fluids, or cutaneous or mucosal sores results in primary infection. Eating meat from diseased animals that has not been prepared properly also increases danger.
- Close contact with infectious respiratory tract secretions, an infected person's skin lesions, or recently contaminated objects with patient fluids or lesion materials can all cause human-to-human transmission.
- Other methods of transmission include vaccination and placental transfer.

Challenges and Way Forward:

- Increased illness awareness, better surveillance and response, and avoidance of contact with wild animals, particularly monkeys
- Animals that may have interacted with an infected animal need to be confined, handled with regular safety measures, and monitored for signs of monkeypox for 30 days.
- It is critical to shift focus to other illnesses. Due to Covid-19, fewer endemic disease cases are being documented since fewer people are seeking medical attention in hospitals.

Digi Medicines

Context:

• Digital Vaccines, along with Digital Medicines, are part of an emerging medical field termed Digital Therapeutics that amalgamates medicine with technology to tackle lifestyle ailments.

Background:

- The healthcare system has failed to address the issue of chronic diseases as the healthcare system has been concentrating on the acute diseases.
- The chronic diseases which overwhelmingly affect the elderly population require long term monitoring and care.

Technological Advancements –

- With the proliferation of web 3.0 technologies operating in metaverse platforms, wearable technologies, Internet of Things (IoT), and Virtual and Augmented Reality (AR/VR), the development of digital vaccines promises to address multiple medical conditions at much lower cost through constant behavioural interventions.
- Digital Therapeutics is an intersection of neuroscience, cognitive sciences, health analytics, and AI-powered mobile VR gaming

Diabetes –

- Majority of the patients suffering with diabetes are those who are suffering from type 2 diabetes which are linked to behavioral tendencies.
- These behavioral tendencies include high-calorie consumption and lack of physical

activities.

- So continuous monitoring is required such as frequent blood sugar monitoring, medication adherence, and insulin self-injection, etc.

Cardiovascular diseases

- India has been recording high number of deaths due to cardiovascular diseases, the death rate due to cardiovascular diseases stand at 272 per 100000.
- Like diabetes, CVD is also linked to lifestyle and behavioural factors that require management of weight.
- There are wireless blood pressure monitors that are used in conjunction with an app to display blood pressure data. Historic readings are saved and can be accessed via the cloud, allowing either the patient or the physician to identify changes from previous readings

Challenges:

- There are associated challenges with it including privacy and regulation issues, privacy is a major concern for digital vaccines interventions.
- This could complicate the regulation challenges of these platforms for the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which is responsible for drug approval, clinical trials, drug standards, quality control of imported drugs in the country.

CAATSA

Context:

- The law is meant to punish countries having deep engagements with Russia, North Korea, and Iran using economic sanctions. Several US lawmakers have called for a waiver to India, which has started acquiring Russian S-400 missile systems. India has always underlined the independence of its defence policy.



About S-400:

- Russian engineers created the mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) system known as the S-400 Triumph.
- It is regarded to be far more deadly than the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, making it the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world (THAAD).

What is CAATSA?

- The main goal of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is to use punitive actions to oppose Iran, Russia, and North Korea.
- It imposes sanctions against nations that conduct major business with Russia's defence and intelligence industries.

What sanctions will be imposed?

1. Prohibition on loans to the sanctioned person.
2. Prohibition of Export-Import bank assistance for exports to sanctioned persons.
3. Prohibition on procurement by United States Government to procure goods or services from the sanctioned person.
4. Denial of visas to persons closely associated with the sanctioned person.

Way Forward:

- The S-400 decision is a powerful illustration of how far our defence and strategic alliance has come and how India's ability to select its overseas partners, particularly when it comes to matters of national interest and national security, is unwavering.

Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

Context:

- Recently, the Centre extended the tenure of The Commission to Examine Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) headed by Justice G Rohini, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

About:

- For the purpose of reservations, it is intended to divide the broader group of OBCs into subcategories.
- Under the central government, OBCs are given a 27% reservation in both employment and education.
- Other quota categories have also been the subject of legal discussion; in September of last year, the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench renewed the discussion on the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for reservation purposes.
- For OBCs, the controversy stems from the impression that only a small number of wealthy groups out of the approximately 2,600 OBCs included on the Central List have successfully claimed a significant portion of the 27 percent reserve. Sub-categories within OBCs should be established, according to the justification, in order to maintain "equitable distribution" of representation among all OBC communities.

Background:

- The government announced a 27 percent reservation for members of the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in August 1990, based on the Second Backward Classes Commission's (Mandal Commission) advice, for open positions in civil services and positions that would be filled through direct recruitment.
- After it was contested, the Supreme Court affirmed the 27 percent OBC reservation in November 1992 (Indira Sawhney case), with the condition that the creamy layer be excluded.

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan – “An impetus to Power Infrastructure Development”

For Prelims:

- PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan (NMP): Launched in October 2021.
- Objective: To bring different Ministries/ Utilities & infrastructure planning under a single unified vision, across all sectors such as Highways, Railways, Aviation, Gas, Power transmission, Renewable Energy etc.
- One-click Comprehensive view: Part of NMP portal.
- To steer and simplify the planning & implementation process by reduction of time and cost of implementation in Power transmission projects. It would also aid in improving logistics efficiency through single digital platform & multi-modal portal.



For Mains

- NMP portal shall play critical role in Planning, Tendering, Implementation and Approval stages.
- At Planning Stage: User shall identify the tentative line length of the planned transmission line and location of the substation(s).
- At Tendering stage: The survey agency will utilize the portal for identifying the best techno-economical route.
- At Implementation stage: Finalization of the transmission line route and location of substation shall be done, based on actual conditions.
- At Approval Stage: Will be given through single window clearance.

Benefits:

- Power transmission has been an enabler in the Renewable Energy story and various key Power projects are enabling RE evacuation across country.
- Ministry of Power has undertaken 9 High Impact Power projects (10 no. of transmission lines) spanning over 6 RE rich States Viz. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu. These were mapped in the portal.
- Entire “existing” Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) lines have been mapped on the portal.
- PM GatiShakti NMP portal will ultimately aid in solving problems of development of infrastructures in the country by building secure, sustainable, scalable and

collaborative approach towards infrastructure planning for seamless connectivity to economic zones.

'MSP should continue till markets become efficient'

For Prelims

- MSP recommended by Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) which is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- MSP given to 23 different crops.
- Final MSP is decided by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
- MSP is calculated using the formula **MSP = 1.5 x (A2+FL)**
- A2: It is the out-of-pocket expenses which is incurred by farmers like a loan for fertilisers, fuel, machinery, irrigation, etc. and cost of leasing land.
- FL: Is the estimated value of the unpaid labour for harvesting crops like the contribution of family members, etc.
- However, Swaminathan committee recommended using the formula **MSP = 1.5 x C2**
- C2: Comprehensive Cost which is the actual cost of production. It takes into account rent and interest foregone on the land and machinery owned by farmers further in addition to the A2+FL rate.
- Deficiency Pricing Payment (DPP): Under DPP, the difference between the open market price and MSP is given to farmers.
- The difference between open market price and MSP was about 12-15%.



India-EU: Global Dynamics

For Prelims

- European Union wants to be the first carbon-neutral region in the world by 2050 and have started the 'European Union Green Deal' to achieve this goal.
- 'Fit-for-55' package, a communication of its 2030 climate targets by EU in which they have proposed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a carbon-pricing system proposed for imports into the EU.
- The EU is India's third largest trading partner, while India is EU's 11th largest trading partner.



For Mains

- From January 2023, importers will have to declare the emissions generated by production and won't have to pay penalties.
- However, from 2026 onwards there will be a gradual phasing out of emission trading allowance, and it will be completely phased out by 2035.
- Initially five CITE (Carbon Intensive and Trade Exposed) sectors such as iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilizers and electricity will be taxed under CBAM.

Concerns for India

- Developing countries have raised their concern on the legality of CBAM pointing out its conflict with World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) norms and are afraid that it encourages protectionism.
- Talks on India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that were stalled a while ago have picked up again and are scheduled to take place in June. The target to finalise the Free Trade Agreement has been set for 2023-24.
- Rather than tax on exports proposed in CBAM, India and EU can cooperate better by investing in cleaner and greener technologies in India and helping the production in India to become cleaner.

Taking Stock of Five Years of GST

For Prelims

- Findings show that GST has lowered inflation of food items and raised inflation of non-food items.
- Revenue Neutral Rate: Revenue neutral rate (RNR) meaning is the rate of tax that allows the Government to receive the same amount of money despite changes in the tax laws. Specially to cover the loss due to giving Input Credit.

- The equation to calculate RNR is $t=R/B$, where
- t stands for the RNR.
- R is equal to revenues (both Centre and state) generated from existing sales and excise taxes, which will be replaced by the GST and
- B stands for the total tax base required for generating the required GST revenues.

For Mains-

- During the 12 months preceding GST implementation, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was 3.66%, while it increased to 4.24% post-GST in the next 12 months.
- However similar trends were seen all over the world such as in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada post introduction of their GST regime.
- RNR is supposed to prevent inflation, but this is not always accurate due to the difference in the weight of goods in the consumption basket and their contributions to indirect tax collections are not the same.
- Textbook microeconomics teaches us that market competition leads to lower prices. And when market power increases, prices increase, and profit follows.
- As Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz opined, rising market power is bad for the economy as it raises economic inefficiency and lowers the economy's resiliency.

Hate Crime, Punishment

For Prelims

- The Article 19(1) (A) of the Constitution of India states that, "all citizens shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression".
- Hate speech has not yet been defined by law.
- IPC Section which relates to Hate speech
- Section 153A. Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence.
- Section 295A. Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.
- Section 298. Uttering, words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings of any person.



For Mains:

- Various Law commissions have recommended to criminalize hate speech but as of right now it has not been done.
- Most sections in IPC which can be applied for hate speech is mostly concerned with targeting religion or caste and forget other forms of hate speech such as against sexual orientation.
- There is a growing need to regulate hate speech due to rising popularity of social media sites and the anonymity it provides, leads to people spreading rumors and fake news and hate speech.
- There is also concern that some extremist organizations will use these statements as recruitment tools to cause chaos within the country.
- This was seen in France and some western countries as violence was unleashed due to some comments regarding the Prophet. Similar killings had happened in India in past few days regarding the comments about the Prophet.
- Hence while punishing the perpetrators of violence, we must also assure the various minority communities that their cultural and religious sentiments will be respected.

The Relentless March of FPIs to the Exit Gate

For Prelims

- Foreign portfolio investments consist of securities and other financial assets that are held passively by a foreign investor.
- This does not provide the foreign investor with direct ownership of the financial asset in question.

For Mains

Concerns

- FPI could be used for Money Laundering.
- Exits of large amount of FPI from a country can led to the depreciation of that currency as seen in the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis.
- FPIs sold assets worth about ₹50,000 crore in June 2022. This is the second highest sell-off in a month since 1993, after March 2020.
- The companies are dealing with supply side shortages due to the rising demands post pandemic.
- Along with this, there have been a rise in prices of Sunflower and wheat supplies, to name just two commodities, due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.
- Add to the mix the U.S. Federal Reserve raising the benchmark interest rate starting March this year. Which has made FPIs see US as a much more stable market.
- All these factors combined have given Indian market an image of being a risky investment, which resulted in the outflow of FPIs from India.



Benefits of Foreign Portfolio Investments are as follows:

- Portfolio diversification: FPI enables investors to diversify their portfolios on the international stage.
- International Credit: FPI can give creditors a large credit base as it provides access to credit in foreign nations.
- Benefits from the Exchange rates: If an investor has an FPI in a foreign country with a stronger currency than their own country, the difference in exchange rates between the two countries can benefit the investor.

Handcuffing, A Judicial Tap, and the Long Arm of the Law

For Prelims

- Suprit Ishwar Divate vs The State of Karnataka: High Court held that an accused, in normal circumstances, need not be handcuffed on arrest.
- Handcuffs can only be used under exceptional circumstances such as the possibility of escape and/or the possibility of causing harm to himself or others.
- Further, if handcuffs are used, the arresting officer must write the reasons, are subjected to judicial/court scrutiny.
- There are only three occasions when a person can be (legally) handcuffed, i.e., an accused on his arrest and before he is produced before the magistrate; an under-trial prisoner during transit from jail to the court and back; and a convict being transported from jail to the court and back.
- Prem Shankar Shukla vs Delhi Administration: ‘the only circumstance which validates incapacitation by irons — an extreme measure — is that otherwise there is no other reasonable way of preventing his escape’.



Background:

- Irrespective of whether the person to be handcuffed is an accused or an under-trial prisoner or a convict, the principles governing handcuffing remain the same.
- However, a person under the judicial custody of the court, requires the court's permission for handcuffing except under emergent circumstances.
- It has been established that monetary compensation for an ‘established infringement of the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution is a remedy available in public law, which is based on the strict liability for contravention of the guaranteed basic and indefeasible rights of the citizens.’
- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report (Ministry of Home Affairs) on ‘Crime in India- 2020’ shows that 810 cases of prisoner escape from police custody (against 931) were reported in the year 2020.

- No less than 117 cases were registered against negligent police officers as well.

The Problem with our university vision

Context

The QS World University rankings are announced and the number of Indian Universities in the top 1000 have increased.

For Prelims

- QS World University Rankings is an annual report ranking universities by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).
- The QS system involves three components: the global overall ranking, the subject rankings (world's top universities for 51 different subjects and five composite faculty areas), and five independent regional tables—i.e., Asia, Latin America, Emerging Europe and Central Asia, the Arab Region, and BRICS.

Criteria

- Academic Reputation (40%). Employer Reputation (10%). Faculty Student Ratio (20%). Citations per Faculty (20%). International Faculty Ratio (5%). International Student Ratio (5%)
- Number of Indian institutions in the top 1000 have increased from 22 last year to 27 this year.
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has risen up 31 places and is the highest ranked institution from India.

New Education Policy

- It aims to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% in 2030.

- It also aims to ensure that there is at least one multi-disciplinary HEI in or near every district.

Dhyana Mandir to be built at Alluri birthplace



Context

Prime Minister announced that a Dhyana Mandir will be constructed at Mogallu in honor of the freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju.

For Prelims

About Alluri Sitarama raju:

- He was born in Mogallu, West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh
- He was the leader of **Rampa Rebellion of 1922**.
- He was called "**Manyam Veerudu**".
- He was captured in 1924 and executed by a firing squad.

For Mains

About Rampa Rebellion:

- Also Known as “**Manyam Rebellion**”
- The rebellion was in response of the regressive **1882 Madras Forest Act** which curtailed the rights of “Adivasis”.
- The rebellion was fought using Guerrilla tactics and was violent.

The cause

- The tribes followed ‘**Podu system of cultivation**’ which can be considered as a form of slash and burn agriculture, which was the sole source of food for their consumption.
- The Britishers wanted to evict these tribes from these areas to plunder wood and other materials for the future construction requirements of the Raj.
- This resulted in the **1882 Madras Forest Act** which restricted the free movement of tribes.

The Result

- The rebellion caused massive damages to the British Raj and along with the Non-Cooperation Movement resulted in threatening the stability of the empire.
- The rebellion was brutally suppressed by the British using large amounts of money and manpower.
- The death of Alluri Sitarama Raju resulted in the collapse of the movement and it ended in failure in 1924.

We need an urgent national plan on electrical safety

For Mains

Concerns

- According to **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** deaths due to electric shocks and fires have increased from 2,957 in 1990 to 15,258 in 2020.
- Over 90% of the people who die due to electric accident are general public.
- Geographically most of the deaths are happening at rural areas but urban poor is also under threat.
- Currently there is no mechanism to ensure that the electrical utilities are following the safety guidelines setup by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- There is more focus given on compensating the victim rather than on accident prevention.

Suggestions

- Proper monitoring on safety regulations being followed and conduct safety audits.
- Fill the vacancies in states for Electrical Inspectors and increase their numbers to meet the demands of a rapidly electrifying nation.
- Create awareness among the general public about electrical safety and its importance.
- Collect sufficient data to ensure a better system can be put in place to reduce the chances of such accidents happening in future.

Sedition law should go: Sinha

Context

- Presidential Candidate Yashwant Sinha called for the repeal of the colonial era Section 124A of IPC aka Sedition Law saying it should no longer be a part of our legal system.

For Prelims

Sedition Law

- Proposed by: Thomas Macaulay in 1837.
- Not part of initial IPC.
- Introduced by: Sir James Stephen in 1870 as an amendment to IPC.
- IPC section 124A.
- First case under sedition was: Queen Empress v Jogendra Chunder Bose.
- Sedition is a non bailable offence.
- Person charged under sedition is barred from holding government job.

Presidential Election

- Elected through an electoral college made up of all the elected members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha as well as the elected members of all State Legislative Assemblies and Union Territories with legislature.
- Nomination requires the support of 50 proposers and 50 supporters. This was implemented by the Election Commission since 1974.
- An elector cannot propose or support more than one candidate.
- Election held in accordance with proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

Related Articles

- **Article 54:** Election of President.
- **Article 55:** Manner of election of President.
- **Article 58:** Qualifications for election as President.

DRDO carries out test flight of autonomous UAV

For Prelims

- Indigenous UAVs that are being developed: Rustom 2, AURA, Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE)
- Testing Site: Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka



For Mains

- India was also planning to purchase 30 Predator drones from USA but this was canceled to promote indigenous drone development.
- Development of these drones marks a significant milestone in the Make in India initiative and the efforts of government to make India self-reliant in terms of military equipment.
- UAVs have been commonly used by US in its War on Terror and have hence proven to be highly effective especially in reconnaissance, border patrol and even in cross border attacks against dangerous individuals.
- UAVs are remotely operated and hence have a much smaller size which help in undetected flight
- They also help to reduce casualties in war especially during surgical strikes as they do not require the presence of an onboard pilot.

GST revenues in June surpass Rs 1.4 lakh crore

For Mains

- Increase of 56% in GST collection compared to last year showcasing steady economic recovery.
- Most states show increasing revenues with Kerala showing an increase of 116% while many show an increase of more than 50%.
- Negative growth was seen in the UT of Daman and Diu (-13%) and some areas under central jurisdiction.
- High growth rate partially due to low base effect of last year's impact of second wave of Covid 19