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South China Sea dispute: China has asked 'ASEAN countries' to intensify talks on the framework of a 'code of conduct' for the 'South China Sea'.

background: Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). China is keen to work with the 'ASEAN countries' to celebrate the occasion with memorable activities.

About this announcement: In November 2002, China and the ten ASEAN grouping nations signed a Non-binding Declaration (DoC) on the Treaty of Parties in the 'South China Sea'.

- In this document all eleven parties recorded their commitment to create a binding code of conduct.

- According to the document, "the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea will further promote peace and stability in the region."

Overall Case: In the South China Sea, Beijing has had overlapping territorial claims with several Southeast Asian nations.

- Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam claim the South China Sea, while China has competing claims over the resource-rich almost the entire oceanic region. Be aware that ships carrying billions of dollars of trade annually pass through this area.

- Beijing has also been accused of deploying military equipment, including anti-ship missiles and surface-to-air missiles. In addition, China's

2016 decision by the International Tribunal has been overlooked, declaring China's historic claim to most of its waters as unfounded.

Location of 'South China Sea': The South China Sea is a branch of the Western Pacific Ocean in Southeast Asia.

- It is located to the south of China, east and south of Vietnam, west of the Philippines and north of the island of Borneo.

- It is connected to the 'East China Sea' by the Taiwan Strait and the 'Philippine Sea' through the 'Luzon Strait'.

- Border countries and territories: People's Republic of China, Republic of China (Taiwan), Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Strategic Significance:

- The 'South China Sea' is strategically important due to its location, it is the link-link between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean (Strait of Malacca).

- According to the 'United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), one-third of global shipping passes through the 'South China Sea', through which billions of dollars are traded. For this reason also it is an important geopolitical water body.

Different countries' claims on islands located in the South China Sea:

- The Paracels Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam. • The 'Spratley Islands' are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines.

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- Scarborough Shoal is claimed by the Philippines, China and Taiwan.
- Since 2010, China has been converting uninhabited islands into artificial islands to

bring them under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). (for example, Haven Reef, Johnson South Reef and Ferry Cross Reef).



National Population Register: According to a document compiled by a committee under the Registrar General of India, the latest draft of the National Population Register (NPR) probably includes "mother tongue, place of birth of father and mother and last place of residence". Controversial questions as such have been retained.

Related case: The 'National Population Register' was first compiled in the year 2010 and then updated in 2015. In September 2019, some new questions were added in a test process involving 30 lakh respondents.

Since, the 'National Population Register' (NPR) is the first step towards compilation of the 'National Register of Citizens' (NRC) as per the Citizenship Rules, 2003, this test is being conducted by many states and citizen groups in the country. The process is being opposed.

Difference between 'National Population Register' and 'Census':

The objective of the National Population Register (NPR) is to create a detailed identification database of every common citizen of the country, and it is mandatory for every 'ordinary resident' of India to register in the 'National Population Register'.

Although the same details are collected through Census also, but as per Section 15 of the 'Census Act', 1948, all individual level information collected in the Census is confidential and "the collected data can only be collected from various issued at the administrative levels.

Criticisms of 'National Population Register':

In view of the relationship of the 'National Population Register' (NPR) with the proposed 'National Register of Citizens' (NRC) and the

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'Citizenship Amendment Act' (CAA) to be implemented, the NPR update process is being followed by the states ruled by several opposition political parties. being opposed.

The 'National Register of Citizens' is the first step towards compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC) as per the Citizenship Rules framed in the year 2003.

What is 'National Population Register'?

The 'National Population Register' (NPR) is a register of the common residents of the country, in which the details of the place etc. are recorded up to the village level. It is updated from time to time "to incorporate changes due to birth, death and migration".

The next phase of the 'National Population Register' was to be updated with 'house-listing' and house-counting to be done in the year 2021, but was postponed indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is the 'Ordinary Resident'?

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 'Ordinary resident of the country' - a person who has resided in a local area for at least the last six months or intends to reside in a particular place for the next six months or more. Is.

Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine

Pneumococcal 13-valent Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) has been made available nationwide by the Ministry of Health under the 'Universal Immunization Program (UIP)' as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. A campaign was launched to get it done.

Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) will be available for 'universal use' for the first time in the country.

PCV13 protects against 13 types of bacteria that cause pneumococcal disease.

What is pneumonia?

Pneumococcal pneumonia is the most common cause of severe pneumonia in children.

Pneumonia is a leading cause of death in children under 5 years of age globally and in India. About 16 percent of child deaths in India are due to pneumonia.

What is 'pneumococcal disease'?

Pneumococcal disease refers to any disease caused by pneumococcal bacteria. This bacteria can cause a variety of diseases, including pneumonia (which is an infection of the lungs). Pneumococcal bacteria are one of the most common causes of pneumonia.

Universal Immunization Programme:

Launched in 1985, the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) is one of the largest public health programmes, covering about 267 million newborns and 29 million pregnant women annually.

Under 'UIP', free vaccination against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases is being provided.

The program is being run nationally against 10 diseases – diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, measles, rubella, severe form of tuberculosis, rotavirus diarrhea, hepatitis B and meningitis caused by Haemophilus influenzae type b and pneumonia. Is.

CEEW's 'Climate Vulnerability Index'

Recently, the first of its kind district-level 'Climate Vulnerability Index', or 'Climate Vulnerability Index', was conducted by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), an environmental think tank. Index – CVI) has been prepared.

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Under the 'Climate Vulnerability Assessment', CEEW has analyzed 640 districts of India to assess their vulnerability to extreme weather events like cyclones, floods, heat waves, drought etc.

Key findings of the 'Climate Vulnerability Index':

The states of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar are most vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones in India.

27 Indian states and union territories are vulnerable to 'extreme climate' related events, and 463 of the country's 640 districts are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as extreme floods, droughts and cyclones.

Dhemaji and Nagaon in Assam, Khammam in Telangana, Gajapati in Odisha, Vizianagaram in Andhra Pradesh, Sangli in Maharashtra and Chennai in Tamil Nadu are the most vulnerable districts in India.

More than 80 percent of Indians live in climate-vulnerable districts, that is, 17 out of 20 people in the country are vulnerable to climate hazards, of which five Indians live in highly vulnerable areas.

India's northeastern states are more vulnerable to floods, while southern and central states are vulnerable to extreme drought.

Method of Assessment of Districts:

In the index, certain indicators have been taken into account while assessing the preparedness of a state or district.

This includes the availability of critical infrastructure such as shelters during cyclones and floods, and updating of 'standard operating procedures' such as providing food, securing persons and animals before, during and after an extreme weather event. Disaster management plans, mitigation strategies, etc. have

been included for the availability of mechanisms and action being taken by the administration to prevent loss of life and livelihood.

Relevance of Index:

It helps to design critical vulnerabilities and plan strategies to increase 'adaptability' and 'resilience' through climate-resilient communities, economies and infrastructure.

Instead of isolating 'climate extremes', the study focuses on the combined risk and impact of hydro-seasonal disasters related to floods, cyclones and droughts.

In this study, other natural disasters such as earthquakes are not taken into account.

Suggestions given in the Climate Vulnerability Index:

A high-resolution 'climate' program to map critical vulnerabilities at the district level, and better identify, assess, and plan for heat and water loss, crop loss, vector-borne risks, and biodiversity destruction and extreme climate events. A 'Climate Risk Atlas' (CRA) should be developed.

A centralized climate-risk commission should be set up to coordinate the campaigns launched to make the environment risk-free.

As part of the development process, 'Scenario Restoration' with a priority to 'Climate-Sensitivity' focused on the rehabilitation, restoration and reintegration of natural ecosystems should be undertaken.

Incorporate climate risk profiling in infrastructure projects to enhance adaptability.

Provide climate risk adaptation financing by creating innovative CVI-based financing tools to integrate an effective risk transfer mechanism with climate risks.

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One Sun, One World, One Grid

On the second day of COP26, India and the United Kingdom announced the One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative to harness solar energy and transmit it seamlessly across borders. .

About OSOWOG Initiative:

In order to ensure the supply of solar energy globally, the 'One World, One Sun, One Grid' (OSOWOG) initiative was proposed by India to facilitate global cooperation.

Its objective is to create a global ecosystem by interconnecting renewable energy sources located in different countries.

The vision behind the OSOWOG initiative is 'The Sun Never Sets' and remains constant at a given time, in any geographic location, globally.

execution:

A Ministerial Steering Group will work towards accelerating the construction of large solar power stations and wind farms at best-connected locations by continental-scale grids, extended across national borders.

The Ministerial Steering Group includes France, India, the United Kingdom and the United States, and will also include representatives from Africa, the Gulf, Latin America and Southeast Asia.

Importance of World Grid:

With a worldwide grid, we can access clean energy everywhere. This will also reduce the need for energy storage and increase the viability of solar projects.

Possibilities and Benefits under the OSOWOG Initiative

India will be able to generate 40% energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030 and India has called upon all countries to interconnect solar energy supply, giving the mantra of 'One World, One Sun, One Grid' (OSOWOG). has done.

The proposed integration will reduce project costs for all participating entities and promote higher efficiency and optimum utilization of assets.

The scheme will require only incremental investment, the scheme will not require new parallel grid infrastructure since the existing grid is functional.

The scheme will help in harnessing skills, technology and finance for all participating entities to attract investments in renewable energy sources as well.

The economic benefits resulting from this scheme will help in eradicating poverty, addressing water, sanitation, food and other socio-economic challenges.

This initiative will help develop the National Renewable Energy Management Centers located in India into regional and global management centres.

The OSOWOG initiative could enable approximately 2,600 GW of interconnection capacity globally by the year 2050, leading to estimated electricity savings of 226 billion euros per year.

'One Sun' announcement:

The announcement of the OSOWOG initiative was accompanied by a "One Sun Declaration", which states that the vision of "One Sun, One World, One Grid" through interconnected green grids should be transformative. This will help us all meet the goals of the Paris Agreement to prevent catastrophic climate change, accelerate the clean energy transition and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

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The declaration has been endorsed by 80 International Solar Alliance (ISA) member states.

Khasi Succession Property Bill, 2021

Recently, a 'District Autonomous Council' of Meghalaya state announced the introduction of 'Khasi Inheritance of Property Bill, 2021'.

The bill aims at "equitable distribution" of ancestral property among brothers and sisters in the Khasi community.

Implications:

If this proposed bill is implemented, it will amend the centuries-old practice of matrilineal inheritance among the Khasi tribes.

Objectives and Objects of the Bill:

Equal distribution of parental property among siblings.

The parents will have the right to decide to whom they want to inherit their property.

Prohibiting the sharing of ancestral property by either of the siblings, marrying a non-Khasi person and accepting the customs and culture of the spouse.

Bill Requirement:

Many a times adult men face difficulty in taking loans, as they do not have any assets to show as collateral. Whenever a couple has no children, and there is no real heir, then by custom their property becomes the right of their 'clan'. All this has led to cases of litigation by children against their parents.

Contradiction between matrilineal system and empowerment of women in Meghalaya:

Custodianship is often misunderstood, that the ownership of property is vested in only one person, that is, the youngest daughter of the family. Whereas, with the right of guardianship, comes the responsibility of looking after aging parents, unmarried or destitute siblings and other members of the clan.

Further, the custodian/custodian does not have the right to buy or sell the land without the permission of his/her maternal uncle. Also, most of the property in the custody of the custodian is clan property or community property.

Matrilineal system in Meghalaya:

The three tribes of Meghalaya - Khasi, Jaintia and Garo - practice the 'Matrilineal System of Inheritance' in relation to heritage. In this practice, the information of clan and lineage is known from the lineage of the mother.

In this practice, the children receive the mother's surname, after marriage the husband is to live with the wife, and the youngest daughter (khatduh-khatduh) of the family inherits the entire share of the ancestral or clan property. .

As per custom, the 'Khatduh' cannot sell her property without the permission of her mother's brother i.e. maternal uncle and, since technically she is related to her mother's clan, through which her ancestry is traced.

This inheritance tradition applies only to ancestral or clan/community property that has been in the possession of the family for years.

In this traditional system, if a couple does not have any daughters, her property goes to the 'wife's' elder sister and her daughters, and if the wife also has no sisters, usually the clan, the property takes over.

Technical clothing

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The central government is targeting to increase the export of technical textiles by five times in the next three years.

Technical Textiles Market and India's Share in it:

The current global market for technical textiles is \$250 billion (18 lakh crore) and India's share is \$19 billion.

India (8 per cent stake) is an ambitious participant in this market with \$40 billion.

The largest participants in this are the US, Western Europe, China and Japan.

Government's efforts in this regard:

In January 2019, 207 HSN codes for technical textiles were issued for the first time in India and in less than two years India has become a net exporter of technical textiles.

The National Technical Textiles Mission was also unveiled by the Government of India in February last year.

92 items have been made mandatory for use by government organizations covering agriculture/horticulture, highways, railways, water resources, medical applications.

About National Technical Textiles Mission:

In the year 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the setting up of a 'National Technical Textiles Mission' with a total outlay of Rs 1,480 crore.

Objective:

To make the country a leader in the field of technical textiles and to increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market.

The mission will be implemented for a period of four years starting from 2020-2021 and will have four components:

The first component will focus on 'Research, Innovation and Development' and this component will have an outlay of Rs 1,000 crore. In this, research will be done both at the level of research applications based on the development of fiber and geotextile, agro-textile, medical-textile, mobile-textile and sports-textile and development of bio-degradable technical textiles.

The second component will focus on the promotion and marketing development of technical textiles. Under this component, the mission aims to increase the size of the domestic market from \$40 billion to \$50 billion by the year 2024.

The third component will focus on export promotion, under which technical textile exports in the country will be increased from Rs 14,000 crore to Rs 20,000 crore by 2021-2022 and an average growth of 10% will be ensured every year till the end of the mission.













The final component will focus on 'education, training and skill development.

What are 'Technical Textiles'?

Kinetic textiles are defined primarily as textile materials and products manufactured for technical performance and functional requirements rather than for aesthetic characteristics.

Technical textile products are divided into 12 broad categories based on their application areas:

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	Agrotech Horticulture + landscape gardening, agriculture + forestry, animal keeping		Meditech Hygiene, medicine
	Buildtech Membrane, lightweight + massive construction, engineering + industrial building.		Mobiltech Cars, ships, aircraft, trains, space travel
	Clothtech Garments, shoes		Oekotech Environmental protection, recycling, waste disposal
	Geotech Road infrastructure, Railways, Irrigation and Hydraulic structures, Waste Landfills, Dams etc.		Packtech Packaging, protective-cover systems, sacks, big bags, container systems
	Homotech Furniture, upholstery + interior furnishing, rugs, floor coverings		Protech Person and property protection
	Indutech Filtration, cleaning, mechanical engineering, chemical industry		Sporttech Sport and leisure, active wear, outdoor, sport articles.

12 feet high statue of Adi Shankaracharya unveiled

A 12 feet high statue of 'Adi Shankaracharya' has been unveiled by Prime Minister Modi in Kedarnath, Uttarakhand. It is believed that 'Adi Shankaracharya' attained samadhi at the age of 32 at this place in the ninth century.

About Adi Shankaracharya:

'Adi Shankaracharya' was born in a village called 'Kaladi' situated on the banks of 'Periyar', the largest river flowing in the state of Kerala.

He was the disciple of the famous scholar 'Govindacharya'.

Shankaracharya, carrying the flag of Advaita Vedanta throughout his life, continued to challenge the

prevailing philosophical traditions, including Buddhism and Jainism.

It is believed that he established the ritual practices at Badrinath and Kedarnath Dhams.

Literary Works:

Adi Shankara is generally regarded as the creator of 116 works – these include the ten Upanishads, famous commentaries on the Brahmasutras and the Gita, and poetic works such as Vivekachudamani, Manisha Panchakam, and Soundaryalahiri.

He also composed texts like Shankarsmriti, in which an attempt has been made to establish the 'Namboodiri Brahmins' at the top social position.

What is 'Advaita Vedanta'?

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The philosophy of 'radical monism' has been articulated in Advaita Vedanta. The source of this revisionist world philosophy is found in the ancient Upanishad texts.

According to the Advaita Vedantis, the Upanishads speak of a fundamental principle of 'Advaita', which is called 'Brahman' and that is the reality of all things.

The monists consider 'Brahm' as the transcendental being and the empirical multiple.

According to them, the basic element of the ego (soul) of a person is 'Brahm'. The basic emphasis in Advaita Vedanta is that the soul is a pure desireless consciousness.

It is unique, non-dual, infinite living being and numerically equal to 'Brahma'.

Controversial tradition of 'Shankar':

The essence of Adi Shankara's philosophy is contained in this oft-cited formulation: "Brahma satyam jagan-mithya, jeevo brahmaiva naparah" (that is, only Brahman is truth, this world is an illusion/and the living entity is not separate from Brahman).

The custodians of the caste system refer to Shankara's commentaries to justify an unequal and unjust social order, while other scholars refer to it as 'Vagvistara' and seek to understand another aspect of Acharya Shankara's approach. I suggest reading compositions like 'Manisha Panchakam'.

Other scholars who have explained Shankara's philosophy include 'Sri Narayana Guru', who say that the categories of 'Buddhist thinkers' are borrowed in 'Advaita Vedanta', and describe this philosophy as 'disguised Buddha'. Huh. 'Shri Narayana Guru' had proposed in the 20th century to fall behind the original form of 'Advaita Vedanta' to destroy 'the theory and practices of caste'.

global methane resolution

Recently, the 'Global Methane Pledge' / 'Global Methane Pledge' was launched at the 'United Nations COP26 Climate Conference' held in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

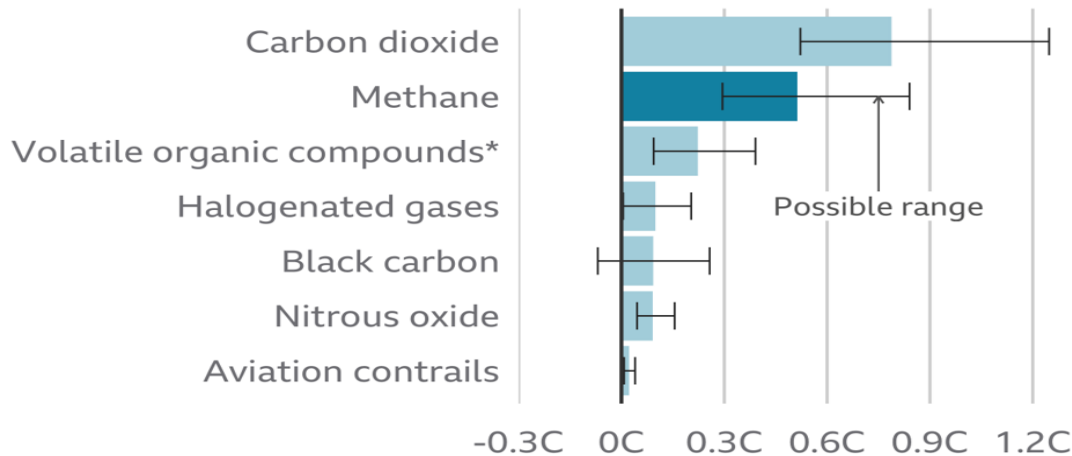
It is an effort launched under the joint leadership of the United States of America and the European Union.

The resolution has been signed by more than 90 countries so far.

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Methane is a major contributor to global warming

Contribution to warming in degrees Celsius



Figures are for contributions to 2010-2019 warming relative to 1850-1900
*Volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide

About 'Global Methane Resolution':

The resolution was first announced in September by the US and the European Union. This is primarily an agreement to cut methane emissions by a third by the end of this decade.

One of the main objectives of this agreement is to reduce methane emissions by 30 percent from 2020 levels by 2030.

Need to limit methane emissions:

Methane (CH₄) is the second most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere after carbon dioxide, and therefore, resolutions to reduce methane emissions become important.

According to the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, methane accounts for nearly half of the 1.0 degree

Celsius net increase in global mean temperature since the pre-industrial era.

Rapid reductions in methane emissions are a complement to action on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and to achieve the goal of reducing global warming and limiting it to 1.5 °C in the near future. Considered as the most effective strategy.

Why is tackling methane important to 'climate change'?

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), although 'methane' has a very short atmospheric lifetime (12 years compared to the millennia of CO₂), it is still a much more potent greenhouse gas, and significantly longer during its stay in the atmosphere. Absorbs a large amount of energy.

In its fact-table on methane, 'methane' is recorded by the United Nations as a potent pollutant, with a global warming potential of 80 times greater than

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'carbon dioxide' even after almost 20 years of being released into the atmosphere it occurs.

Importantly, the average methane leak rate of 2.3 percent "destroys most of the climate benefit from gas rather than coal".

According to the IEA, more than 75 percent of methane emissions can be eliminated with current technologies, and up to 40 percent of these emissions can be eliminated at no additional cost.

Sources of anthropogenic methane emissions:

Most of the man-made methane emissions come from three sectors: fossil fuels, waste and agriculture.

In the fossil fuel sector, oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution is responsible for 23 percent of methane emissions. Coal mining accounts for 12 percent of methane emissions.

In the waste sector, about 20 percent of methane emissions are generated from waste landfills and wastewater.

In agriculture, cattle dung and enteric fermentation account for 32% of methane emissions and 8% from paddy cultivation.

Differences in Emission Reduction Capacity of Different Countries:

Europe has the greatest potential to reduce methane emissions from agriculture, fossil fuel operations and waste management.

India has the greatest potential to reduce methane emissions from the waste sector.

Africa has the greatest potential in mitigating methane emissions from China, livestock, and oil and gas in mitigating methane emissions from coal production and livestock.

The fossil fuel industry has the greatest potential for low-cost methane reduction.

Suggestion:

Human-caused methane emissions should be cut by 45 percent to avoid the ill effects of climate change.

Such a reduction could prevent an increase in global warming of up to 3 °C by the year 2045.

It could also prevent 260,000 premature deaths, 775,000 asthma-related hospital visits and 25 million tonnes of crop loss annually.

Three behavioral changes to be made – reducing food waste and food loss, improving livestock management and adopting a healthier diet (vegetarian or less meat and dairy products) – will cost 65-80 million tonnes per year over the next few decades. can reduce methane emissions.

Competition Commission of India

After analyzing the findings of the market study conducted by the fair trade regulator 'Competition Commission of India' (CCI), measures will be identified to increase competition in the pharmaceutical sector of the country to ensure the affordability of medicines.

Need:

In view of the issues like 'lack of effective alternatives for the consumers', a market study has been started by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

It currently appears that, when it comes to drugs, the competition is primarily based on brands rather than on the basis of prices. This study of 'Competition Commission' will identify measures to increase 'competition' to ensure the affordability of medicines.

Indian Pharma Industry:

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India enjoys an important position in the global pharmaceuticals sector and is the largest provider of generic drugs globally.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry supplies 50% of the global demand for various vaccines, 40% of the demand for generic drugs in the US and 25% of the total pharmaceutical demand in the United Kingdom.

Currently, more than 80% of the antiretroviral drugs used to combat AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) globally are made by Indian pharmaceutical companies.

The Indian pharmaceuticals market is the world's third largest in terms of volume and the thirteenth largest in terms of prices. India has established itself as a global manufacturing and research hub in the pharma sector.

India has the lowest cost of manufacturing drugs, lower than the US and almost half that of Europe and the lowest in the world.

Challenges before the Indian Pharma Industry:

Dependence: The Indian pharmaceutical industry is heavily dependent on China for raw materials for medicines. These raw materials are called 'active pharmaceutical ingredients' (API), and are also known as bulk drugs. Indian pharmaceutical manufacturers import about 70% of their total bulk drug requirements from China.

Counterfeit versions of expensive pharmaceutical brands of pharmaceutical companies in India: adversely affecting the business of these companies and is a major challenge. In addition, counterfeit medicines have a negative impact on the end consumer and pose a health hazard.

Steps taken by India in this direction:

Call for self-reliance: In June, a plan was announced by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to promote three bulk drug parks in the country.

In the Bulk Drug Park, a contact area will be earmarked with mass infrastructure facilities for the manufacture of specific active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), intermediate drugs (DIs) and key starting materials (KSMs), besides a collective waste management system. Will be

These parks are expected to reduce the manufacturing cost of bulk drugs in the country and increase competition in the domestic bulk drugs industry.

About Competition Commission of India:

Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India. It was established under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation and enforcement of the Act and was duly constituted in March 2009. Its chairman and members are appointed by the central government.

Functions of Competition Commission:

The functions of the Competition Commission of India are to eliminate practices that have an adverse effect on competition, to promote and continue competition, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade in the Indian markets.

The Commission, on references received from any statutory authority established under any law, provides advice on competition related matters, and maintains the spirit of competition.

Apart from this, the work related to creating public awareness and training on topics of competition is also provided by the commission.

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Competition Act:(The Competition Act)

On the recommendations of the Raghavan Committee, the 'Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act', 1969 (Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969) i.e. repeal of the MRTP Act, was replaced by the 'Competition Act', 2002.

The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, an amended form of the Competition Act, 2002, prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, control and acquisition of M&A); These combinations may cause or are likely to have a more adverse effect on competition in India.

current

Yuktdhara is a 'Geospatial Planning Portal' portal for facilitating planning at the Gram Panchayat level under MGNREGA. It will work under ISRO's geoportal 'Bhuvan'.

Bhuvan "Yuktdhara" portal has been launched by the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

This platform will act as a repository of assets (Geotag) created under various National Rural Development Programs i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, Per Drop More Crop and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana etc.

'Okke Obvva'

From this year onwards, the Government of Karnataka has decided to celebrate 'Onake Obavva Jayanti' across the state on 11th November every year.

Who was 'Onke Obvva'?

Onake Obavva, a brave warrior woman, fought Haider Ali's army alone in the 18th century with a pestle ('Onke' in Kannada language) at Chitradurga in the Indian state of Karnataka.

She attained Veergati while protecting Chitradurga Fort. At that time the city of Chitradurga was ruled by Madkari Nayaka.

His legacy and relevance:

Obavva is considered a symbol of Kannada pride and is revered along with other women warriors from the state of Karnataka.

The courage and sharp thinking of 'Onke Obvva' is admired by the people of Karnataka, especially in the Chitradurga region. A stadium in Chitradurga is named after him.

Inspired by 'Obvva', in the year 2018, Chitradurga Police formed a team of women police constables called 'Obavva Pade' to educate and protect women in the district. Later this team was also started in Bangalore.

New Initiatives of Reserve Bank of India

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched two innovative customer centric initiatives of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

'Reserve Bank of India – Retail Direct Scheme (RBI-RD) Scheme' (RBI – Retail Direct Scheme) and

Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme – RB-IOS

Both the schemes will expand the scope of investment in the country and make access to capital markets easier and more secure for investors.

What is 'Reserve Bank of India - Direct Retail (RBI-RD) Scheme'?

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The objective of the RBI-RD Scheme is to increase access to the government securities market for retail investors.

Retail Direct Scheme will provide easy and safe means of investment to the small investors of the country in government securities.

Under this, investors will be able to easily open and maintain their government securities account with RBI free of cost.

The scheme facilitates a portal for investing in Central Government Securities, Treasury Bills, State Development Loans and Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs).

After the implementation of this scheme, India will be included in the list of select countries providing such facility.

About 'Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme':

The Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme aims to further improve the grievance redressal mechanism for redressal of customer complaints against entities regulated by the central bank.

The main theme of the scheme is based on 'One Nation-One Lokpal', which will have one portal, one email and one address for customers to register their grievances.

The Reserve Bank has decided to consolidate the three Ombudsman schemes into one scheme, and has simplified the scheme by centralizing the receipt and preliminary inquiry of complaints, covering all complaints related to lapses in service, to enhance process efficiency.

Under the Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS), the problem of limited grounds for making complaints along with jurisdictional

limitations has been removed. RBI will provide a 'single reference point' for customers to submit documents, track the status of complaints lodged, and provide feedback.

Please note that:

In the alternate grievance redressal mechanism of the central bank, the existing three ombudsman schemes of the RBI, namely, the Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006; Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies, 2018; And the Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019 has been integrated.

Importance of these plans:

This step has been taken by the Reserve Bank of India at a time when there is increasing pressure on RBI to hike rates due to rising inflation.

The imposition of tighter monetary policy is likely to weaken demand for bonds, making it challenging for the government to execute its upcoming record low-debt program.

Other emerging market countries in Asia, such as the Philippines, are also trying to raise money from citizens to fight the pandemic.

Central government allows seven states to take additional loans

Seven states namely Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan and Telangana have achieved the target set by the Finance Ministry for capital expenditure by the second quarter of FY 2021-22.

Keeping this in view, as an incentive, these states have been allowed by the Department of Expenditure to borrow an additional amount of Rs.16,691 crore.

background:

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To become eligible for incremental borrowing, states were required to meet at least 45 per cent of their capital expenditure targets by the end of the second quarter of 2021-22.

The states of Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan and Telangana have met the targets set for the first half of the year 2021-22.

Permission needed from the Center for states to take loans:

As per Article 293(3) of the Constitution, in case of past dues of the Central Government on the States, the States are required to obtain the consent of the Center for taking loans. Under Article 293 (4), the states can also be given consent by the Center to take loans subject to certain conditions.

In practice, the Center is exercising this power as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

At present, every state is indebted to the Center and thus, all states are required to seek the consent of the Center for availing loans.

Landraces

Recently, Rahibai Popre, a resident of Akole taluka of Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, was honored with the 'Padma Shri' award.

Rahibai Popare is popularly known as 'Seedmother'.

He has been conferred with the 'Padma Shri' award for his work in helping save hundreds of landraces/ 'Landraces' (wild varieties of crops commonly grown) at the village level.

What are Landraces?

Landraces generally refer to 'naturally occurring types' of crops that are cultivated.

These are in contrast to commercially grown crops grown through selective breeding (hybrids) or genetic engineering to show a certain trait on other crop species.

Effect of Selection and Breeding on Land Species:

Biodiversity provides a natural mechanism for crops to develop traits to cope with challenging conditions. However, given the large-scale human intervention in crop selection, this capability is now lost in most commercial crops.

The genetic base of most crops has narrowed due to crop improvement carried out through 'selection and breeding' over several decades.

Need and importance of land species:

Amidst the threat of climate change, scientists and policy makers are faced with a challenge to develop varieties that can withstand both abiotic and biotic threats.

There is still a large pool or set of untapped genetic traits in naturally occurring land species, which may provide solutions to these problems.

Genetic diversity is the survival mechanism of nature. The wider the gene pool, the more likely a species is to develop 'traits' capable of helping it survive extreme climate events.

Way ahead:

Much remains to be understood about the germplasm of the land species. Research work in this regard is in its initial stage. While it is important to understand how these landraces can contribute to climate-resilient agriculture, nutritional profile may

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also prove effective in combating deficiencies, as many landraces are commercially available. They are richer in nutrients than cultivated varieties.

Ordinance to extend the tenure of directors of CBI and Enforcement Directorate

Recently, two ordinances have been promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind, extending the tenure of directors of 'Central Bureau of Investigation' (CBI) and 'Enforcement Directorate (ED)' for the central government from two years. Power has been given to extend it to five years.

At present, the tenure of the chiefs of the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate is fixed at 'two years'.

Revised Laws:

An amendment has been made in the 'Delhi Special Police Establishment Act', 1946 to change the tenure of CBI Director.

An amendment has been made in the 'Central Vigilance Commission Act', 2003 for change in the tenure of 'Enforcement Directorate' (ED) Director.

Amendment in the 'Fundamental Rules', 1922:

An order has been issued by the Ministry of Personnel to amend the 'Fundamental Rules', 1922 to include two other posts in the tenure change list, so that their services will be in the "public interest" for a fixed tenure of two years. can be extended for an additional period of up to two years.

In the previous list, the Defense Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Director, Intelligence Bureau and Secretary, 'Research and Analysis Wing' (RAW) were included.

About 'CBI Director' and his appointment:

The director of the 'Central Bureau of Investigation' (CBI) is appointed under section 4A of the 'Delhi Special Police Establishment Act' 1946.

According to the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013), the Director of CBI will be appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a three-member committee, with the Prime Minister as the Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or the Supreme Court nominated by him. The judge of the court will be involved.

In addition, the composition of the committee relating to the appointment of CBI Director was changed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Act, 2014. It states that in case there is no recognized Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha shall be included as a member of this committee.

Enforcement Directorate:

This Directorate was set up on 1st May, 1956, under the 'Foreign Exchange Regulation Act', 1947 (FERA '47) to set up an 'Enforcement Unit' in the Department of Economic Affairs to deal with the violations of the Exchange Control Act. was done together.

In the year 1957, the name of this unit was changed to 'Enforcement Directorate'.

The Enforcement Directorate, at present, is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance.

The function of this organization is to enforce the provisions of two special fiscal laws- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 - FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

structure:

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In Directorate of Enforcement, apart from direct recruitment of personnel, officers are appointed on deputation basis from various investigating agencies i.e. Customs and Central Excise, Income-tax, Police etc.

Green bond

After US companies including chip maker Micron Technology Inc., retailer Walmart Inc. and data-centre company Equinix Inc. included 'green bonds' in their larger traditional 'bond offerings', 'corporate green-bonds' were issued. has reached a new height of

Need:

When companies face pressure from investors, regulators and employees to take steps to improve the environment, they issue 'green bonds' to finance eco-friendly projects. Huh. This can also be done by issuing loans related to sustainable goals.

What is 'Green Bond'?

'Green bonds' are a type of 'fixed income' instrument specifically earmarked to raise funds for climate and environment related projects.

These bonds are usually linked to an asset, and are backed by the issuing entity's balance sheet, so these bonds are often given the same 'credit rating' as the issuer's other debt obligations.

Investing in 'Green Bonds' can also be issued with some exemption from 'taxes' etc. as an incentive to attract investors.

The World Bank is a major issuer of 'Green Bonds' / Green Bonds. It has issued 164 'Green Bonds' since 2008, with a combined value of \$14.4 billion. According to the 'Climate Bond Initiative', in the year

2020, about \$270 billion worth of green bonds were issued.

Functioning of 'Green Bond':

Green bonds work just like any other corporate bond or government bond.

These securities are issued by borrowers to secure 'financing' of projects that have a 'positive environmental impact', such as ecosystem restoration or mitigation of pollution.

Investors buying these bonds can expect to earn a reasonable profit on their maturity or maturity.

In addition, investing in green bonds often comes with 'tax' benefits.

Green Bond Vs Blue Bond:

'Blue Bonds' are 'sustainability bonds' issued to finance projects to protect the ocean and associated ecosystems.

These bonds can be issued for projects to protect sustainable fisheries, coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems, or to reduce pollution and acidification.

All blue bonds are 'green bonds' but not all 'green bonds' are blue bonds.

'Green Bonds vs Climate Bonds'

"Green bonds" and "climate bonds" are sometimes used interchangeably, but the term "climate bonds" is used by some authorities, especially to reduce carbon emissions or mitigate the effects of climate change. Use for projects focused on doing.

Unique Land Block Identification Number (ULPIN) Scheme

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Recently, a national workshop on 'Bhoomi Samvad' - Digital India Land Record Modernization Program was organized at the 'India Habitat Centre' in the national capital.

Talking about the importance of Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers (ULPIN), the 'Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister' described it in a way like the Aadhaar number of the plot.

In this unique system a Unique Identification Number is generated for the plot on the basis of the geo-coordinate and it is recorded for the identification of the said plot.

About the plan:

Under this scheme, a 14-digit identification number will be issued to each plot in the country.

It is also being called 'Aadhaar number of land'. This number will uniquely identify each section of land surveyed and prevent land fraud, especially in rural India, where land records are generally very old and disputed.

Under this, the identification of the land area will be done on the basis of its longitude and latitude and will be based on detailed survey and geo-referenced land asset-map.

Benefit:

ULPIN has multilateral benefits. This single source of information can prove the ownership of the land and this will eliminate the dubious claims of land ownership. This will help in easy identification of government land and avoid unjust land-transactions.

the process of repealing a law Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on November 19 has announced the repeal of three controversial agricultural laws.

He has assured the farmers' groups opposing these laws of completing the legislative process of repeal in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

Agricultural laws to be repealed:

The Agricultural Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 (Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020): Its purpose is to provide the existing 'Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis'. Outside, agricultural produce trade is to be allowed.

'Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020' (Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020): It made provisions to provide a framework for contract farming went.

The 'Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020': It aims to remove items like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.

Repeal of any law means:

Repeal of a law is a way to repeal a law. When it appears to the Parliament that the continuance requirement of a law has expired, then that law is withdrawn.

The law may also include a "sunset" clause, whereby, after a particular date, that law ceases to have effect.

How can agriculture law be repealed?

Agricultural laws can be repealed by the government in two ways – one, a bill can be brought by the government to repeal all three laws, or, second, the government can bring its ordinances, which can then

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be followed for six months. It has to be passed as a bill within.

The power of Parliament to repeal a law is the same as to make a law under the Constitution.

Article 245 of the Constitution, which empowers the Parliament to make laws, also gives the legislative body the power to repeal them through repeal and amendment acts.

An Act in this regard was first passed in 1950 and 72 laws were repealed.

Any law may be repealed either in whole or in part, or to the extent it violates any other laws.

Procedure for repeal of law:

A law can be repealed or repealed in two ways – through an ordinance, or through a law.

Through ordinance:

If an 'Ordinance' is used to repeal a law, it has to be replaced by a law passed by the Parliament within six months.

If the ordinance lapses for not being approved by Parliament, the repealed law can be revived.

By law:

To repeal agricultural laws, the government can also bring a law.

This law has to be passed by both houses of Parliament, and it must also get the assent of the President before it can come into effect.

The 'three agricultural laws' can also be repealed by a single law.

Usually, Bills titled 'Repeal and Amendment' are introduced for this purpose.

Dictatorship on the rise: report
Recently, the 'Global State of Democracy Report, 2021' has been released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

The report mentions three main types of governance: democracies, hybrid and authoritarian regimes.

In which, both mixed governance and authoritarian rule are classified as non-democratic regimes.

Key points of the report:

In the year 2020, the number of countries moving towards authoritarianism was higher than countries moving towards democracy. 20 countries moved towards authoritarianism, while only seven countries moved towards democracy.

The pandemic has extended this current negative trend for a period of up to five years. This is the longest period of negative growth since the beginning of the third wave of democratization in the 1970s.

In many countries, including established democracies, democratically elected governments are increasingly adopting authoritarian tactics.

Performance analysis done under various studies:

The report cited the cases of 'Brazil' and 'India' as among the cases involved in the 'most worrying examples of lag behind'. However, India has been retained in the category of a 'mid-level performing democracy'. It is to be noted that since the year 2000, India has remained in the 'Middle-Level Performing Democracy' in the Global State of Democracy Report.

The United States and three EU member states (Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) have also seen a worrying trend of democratic collapse.

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About the report:

The Global State of Democracy Report, 2021 The status of democracy has been reviewed in

- This report is based on an analysis of events affecting democratic governance systems globally since the start of the pandemic. This report, 'Global Monitor of Covid-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights' of 'International IDEA's' and 'Global State of Democracy' of 'International IDEA' (GSoD) list has been prepared on the basis of various data sources including

- The 'Global State of Democracy' (GSoD) list provides quantitative data on democratic quality for equitable countries as of the end of 2020, based on 28 aspects of democracy.

What is 'democracy'?

Democracy has been defined in the report on the basis of the following five key features:

1. Representative Government,
2. Fundamental Rights,
3. Control over the government,
4. Fair Administration and
5. Participation.

These five characteristics form the basis of this report.

Demand for repeal of 'Labor Code' by trade unions

More than a year has passed since Parliament passed "four labor codes on wages, social security, occupational safety and industrial relations" on 'wages, social security, occupational safety and industrial relations', but the Center The government is still in the process of notifying the rules for giving

effect to these laws, and no date has been fixed for their coming into force.

However, in the wake of the government's decision to repeal three agriculture laws, trade unions plan to intensify their agitation against these labor codes this week.

Demands of Trade Unions:

Trade unions say that we accept the codes made on wages and social security, and they should be implemented immediately.

Objecting to the codes made by trade unions on 'Industrial Relations' and 'Occupational Safety', there is a demand to review them.

About 'Labour Codes':

This new set of laws consolidates 44 labor laws into 'four codes': the Wage Code, the Social Security Code, the 'Occupational Safety,' Health & Working Conditions Code and Industrial Relations Code. All four of these codes have already been passed by the Parliament and the President's assent has also been obtained for them.

These are the four codes:

Wages Code, 2019 (The Code on Wages, 2019): This code is applicable to all employees in the organized and unorganized sector. It aims to regulate 'salary' / 'wages' and bonus payments in all employments, and to provide equal remuneration to employees doing work of similar nature in every industry, profession, occupation or manufacturing.

'Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code' 2020 (Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020): It aims to protect the health and safety of workers in establishments employing 10 or more workers and reducing workers in all

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mines and ports/ docks. The security situation is to be regulated.

Social Security Code, 2020: Under this, nine laws related to social security and maternity benefits have been consolidated.

Industrial Relations Code, 2020: Under it, three labor laws viz.; The Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 have been consolidated. It aims to improve the business environment in the country by substantially reducing the compliance burden of labor laws on industries.

Problems with these codes:

No provision has been made in the working hours provisions for regular workers 'fixing working hours exceeding eight hours in a day'.

Similar provisions have not been laid down for part-time employees in these Codes.

Provisions affecting the wages of employees have also been included.

In the labor codes, provision has been made to impose fine on businesses for non-compliance of the provisions and for committing a second offence. In the current pandemic situation, most small businesses are not in a position to adopt and implement the changes made in labor codes.

National Family Health Survey

The National Family and Health Survey-5, the most comprehensive survey on socio-economic and health indicators in the country, has been released.

The last four phases of the 'National Family and Health Survey' (NFHS), were conducted in the years 1992-93, 1998-99, 2005-06 and 2015-16 respectively.

Key points of the report:

According to the survey, women outnumber men, fertility is declining, and the number of elderly people in India is increasing. In the year 2019-2021, there were 1,020 females per 1000 males in the country. This is the highest sex ratio in any National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) and since the first modern synchronous census conducted in 1881.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has decreased, and has fallen below the threshold at which the population is expected to be transferred from one generation to the next. The Gross Fertility Rate (TFR) in 2019-2021 was just 2, which was just below the 'Replacement Fertility Rate' (2.1).

The nutritional status of children has improved, but its pace has been very slow. Since the last 'National Family and Health Survey' conducted in 2015-16, stunting means 'short height for age' (stunting), stunting (underweight for height), and 'decreased weight' (age for age) There has been a decrease in the number of children with less than one birth weight.

India may be 'food safe', but adequate nutrition is a problem even for adults. Although India has achieved 'food security', 60% of Indians are not in a position to not consume nutritious food.

About National Family and Health Survey (NFHS):

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale multi-stage survey, conducted in representative samples of households across India.

- All 'National Family Health Surveys' are conducted under the leadership of 'Ministry of Health and Family Welfare', Government of India, with 'International Institute for Population Sciences- IIPS', Mumbai as the nodal agency works.

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- NFHS-5 includes some new areas of special focus, such as death registration, pre-school education, expanded areas of child immunization, components of micronutrients for children, menstrual hygiene, alcohol and tobacco use. Extended age range to measure frequency of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) additional component diseases, hypertension and diabetes in all people aged 15 years and older. All these will provide necessary inputs to strengthen existing programs and develop new strategies for policy interventions.

Each successive phase of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) has two specific goals:

1. To provide necessary details on health and family welfare required by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other agencies for policy making and other objectives of the programme.
2. To provide information on important issues of health and family welfare.

Tawang

Historically Tawang was a part of Tibet.

- Under the 'Shimla Accord' in the year 1914, 'McMahon Line' was considered as the new border between British India and Tibet. Under this treaty, Tibet ceded some of its territories, including Tawang, to the British. But, China did not give recognition for this.
- In the year 1950, Tibet's de facto independence ended and China included it in the newly established People's Republic of China.
- Later, in the year 1959, the present Dalai Lama came to India via 'Tawang' while fleeing Tibet.
- During the 1962 Indo-China war, Tawang was briefly occupied by China, but at the end of the war, China voluntarily withdrew its troops.

- After this, Tawang again came under Indian administration, but China has not given up its claim on most parts of Arunachal Pradesh, including Tawang.

Internet through LEO satellites

OneWeb is considering options to remove one of its broadband satellites from low-Earth orbit after a software issue failed last year.

So far, One Web has deployed 358 satellites over a distance of 1,200 km through 11 launches.

background:

OneWeb earlier this year partnered with a startup called Astroscale, a debris removal mission under the European Space Agency's (ESA) 'Sunrise Program'.

About OneWeb's LEO Internet Programme:

OneWeb is a private company operating 'communication satellites' located in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

- OneWeb aims to provide the option of Internet connectivity via LEO satellites in the United Kingdom, Alaska, Northern Europe, Greenland, the Arctic Ocean and Canada.
- The company has expressed the possibility of commissioning internet service before the end of this year.

OneWeb has named this program 'Five to 50' service, under which internet connectivity services will be provided in all areas located north of 50 degree latitude.

Advantages of LEO Satellite Based Internet:

- LEO satellites are located at a distance of about 500 km to 2000 km, compared to geostationary orbit

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satellites located at a distance of about 36,000 km from Earth.

- LEO satellites orbit the Earth closer, so they are able to provide stronger signals and faster speeds than traditional fixed-satellite systems.
- Since signals move through space faster than fiber-optic cabling systems, they will still be able to compete with existing ground-based networks, even if they cannot overtake them.

Challenges:

LEO satellites travel at a speed of 27,000 km per hour and complete a complete circuit of the Earth in 90-120 minutes. As a result, a satellite can communicate with a transmitter installed on Earth for very little time, so the system requires a large fleet of LEO satellites to function successfully and requires large capital investments.

Criticisms of LEO Satellites:

1. Since these projects are mostly being run by private companies, the balance of power has shifted from countries to companies. In view of the involvement of many nations in these private projects, questions are being raised about controlling these companies.
2. Complex regulatory framework: These companies involve stakeholders from different countries. Thus it becomes challenging to obtain the required licenses to operate these services in each country.
3. Natural satellites can sometimes be seen in the night sky, these artificial satellites can cause problems for astronomers.
4. Satellites orbiting in low orbit can disrupt the frequencies of satellites orbiting above them.

5. In colloquial language, bodies called 'space junk' have the potential to damage spacecraft or collide with other satellites.

the possibilities:

In locations where fiber and spectrum services are not accessible, LEO satellite broadband may be able to perform better. The target market, therefore, would be the rural population and military units stationed away from urban areas.

Other projects like this:

OneWeb's main competitor is Starlink, a venture led by Elon Musk's SpaceX company. Starlink currently has 1,385 satellites placed in low Earth orbit. Starlink has already started beta testing in North America, and has also started pre-orders in countries like India.

Central bank digital currency
The implementation strategy is being worked out by the Reserve Bank of India for the introduction of 'Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) in a phased manner. This digital currency can be launched on a pilot basis by the end of this year.

The financial advisory services firm has listed four major uses of CBDC in the Indian context. These include:

'Fit-for-Purpose' money to be used for social benefits and other targeted payments in a country. In such cases, a pre-programmed central bank digital currency (CBDC) payment may be made to the intended beneficiaries by the central bank, which will be valid only for a specific purpose.

Remittance Payments, CBDC can be used to send money from abroad to the country quickly. The necessary infrastructure and mechanisms for transfer and transformation of 'CBDCs' can be

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created through international cooperation among major economies of the world, including India.

'Payment Instruments' may be provided for payment transactions to be done through 'CBDCs'. In addition, to have universal access to CBDCs, 'offline payments' may also be included in its working.

With the help of CBDC, it may also be possible to give instant credit to 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises' (MSMEs) in India.

CBDC Requirement:

An official digital currency will reduce the cost of currency management by enabling 'real-time payments' without any inter-bank settlement.

India's significantly higher currency-GDP ratio is another advantage of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) - through it, the use of cash can be largely replaced by CBDCs and the need for printing, transporting and storing paper currency. The cost can be reduced to a great extent.

Since, under this arrangement, person-to-person money transfers would be the responsibility of the central bank, the need for 'inter-bank settlement' / 'inter-bank settlement' would be eliminated.

What is CBDC or 'National Digital Currency'?

A central bank digital currency (CBDC), or national digital currency, is a digital form of a country's credit currency. For this, instead of minting paper currency or coins, the central bank issues electronic tokens. This token enjoys the full trust and credibility of the government.

SC Garg Committee Recommendations (2019)

Mining, owning, transacting or dealing in cryptocurrencies in any form is prohibited.

By the committee, a penalty of imprisonment ranging from one to 10 years was recommended for exchanging or trading in digital currency.

The committee proposed monetary penalty up to three times the loss caused to the exchequer or profit earned by the cryptocurrency user, whichever is higher.

However, the committee also advised the government to keep an open mind on the 'possibility of issuing cryptocurrencies by the Reserve Bank of India'.

Challenges in launching a national digital currency:

Potential cyber security threat

Lack of digital literacy in the population

With the introduction of digital currency, various challenges also arise related to regulation, tracking investments and purchases, taxing individuals, etc.

Threat to privacy: Digital currency requires collecting some basic information of a person, so that the person can prove that he is the holder of that digital currency.

Paika Rebellion

Recently, in the context of the 'Paika Rebellion', the Union Culture Minister has made the following recommendation, saying that

The 'Paika Rebellion' of 1817 in Odisha cannot be called the first war of independence, but considering this rebellion as the beginning of a mass revolt against the British, the 'National Council of Educational and Training Research' of class 8 (NCERT) history textbook as a case study."

Who was the 'Pika'?

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After the 16th century, many kings in Odisha recruited people from different groups of society, known as 'paikas', to provide military services in exchange for 'Langan-free lands' (nish-kar jagirs) and titles. .

These traditional land lords of Odisha were civilian soldiers and served as warriors in times of battle.

Beginning of Paika Rebellion: When the East India Company's armies occupied most of Odisha in 1803, and after the defeat of the Raja of 'Khorda', the power and prestige of the Paikas began to decline.

The British were not accustomed and comfortable with this aggressive and warlike new subjects, and they constituted a commission under the chairmanship of 'Walter Ewer' to look into the matter.

This commission recommended the return of the hereditary rent-free lands given to the Paikas by the British administration, and this recommendation was enthusiastically followed.

After this the British grabbed the land of the Paikas and they were extorted and harassed by the Company's government and its employees. In response, the Paikas revolted.

The revolt was led by the general of Khorda's Raja Mukunda Dev II, Bakshi Jagabandhu Vidyadhar Mahapatra Bharmarbar Rai.

However, the rise in the price of salt, the abolition of the penny currency for the payment of taxes and the openly extortionate land revenue policy were other underlying causes of the rebellion.

Result:

In the beginning the 'Company' had a lot of difficulty in facing this rebellion, but by May 1817 they were successful in suppressing the rebellion.

Many Paika leaders were hanged or exiled. Jagabandhu surrendered in the year 1825.

Paika Rebellion: Nationalist Movement or Peasant Rebellion?

The 'Paika Rebellion' is one of the peasant revolts that took place in India during the British East India Company's expansion of dominance by force of its army.

The rebellion also resulted in violent clashes with European colonists and missionaries on several occasions; For this reason the resistance to the Paikas is sometimes seen as the first expression of resistance against colonial rule – and the 'Paika Rebellion' is therefore considered "nationalist" in nature.

Bill to amend the Preamble of the Constitution

In the current session of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh has reserved his decision in relation to allowing the introduction of a 'Private Member's Bill' to amend the 'Preamble of the Constitution'. Is.

About the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021:

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2021 (amending the preamble), has been introduced by K J Alphons, a BJP member in the Rajya Sabha from Kerala.

In the introduced private bill, the words 'Equality of status and of opportunity' included in the Preamble / Preamble of the Constitution have been amended to 'prestige and to be born, to be nurtured, to be educated, to get a job and to get respect'. EQUALITY of status and of opportunity to be born, to be fed, to

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be educated, to get a job and to be treated with dignity) has been proposed.

A proposal has also been made in the Bill to amend the word 'Socialist' to 'Equitable'.

In the proposed bill, it has also been proposed to add "access to information technology" and "happiness" as objectives in the preamble.

The above text of the Preamble/Preamble gives information about four important aspects:

1. Source of power of the Constitution: The Constitution derives its power from the people of India.
2. Nature of Indian State: The Constitution declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic.
3. Objectives of the Constitution: In the Constitution, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity have been specified as the objectives.
4. Date of Adoption and Enactment: November 26, 1949.

Preamble as part of the Constitution:

In the Berubari Union Case (1960), the Supreme Court held that the 'Preamble' is not a part of the Constitution.

In the 1973 Kesavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court reversed its earlier view, calling the 'Preamble' a part of the Constitution. This view was further clarified by the Supreme Court in the Life Insurance Corporation of India case (1995).

Although, the 'Preamble' is part of the Constitution; still,

- It is neither a source of power for the legislature nor a restriction on the powers of the legislature.

- It is 'non-justiciable', i.e. its provisions cannot be enforceable through any court.

'Preamble' and its modifiable

In the Kesavananda Bharati case, the apex court held that the basic elements or fundamental features of the Constitution enshrined in the 'Preamble' cannot be changed by any amendment under 'Article 368'.

The Preamble has been amended only once so far. Through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976, three new words 'socialist', 'secular' and 'integrity' were added to the 'Preamble'.

Procedure for acceptance and rejection of questions of MPs
During the last few sessions, some MPs - especially the opposition MPs - have often been accused of not allowing their questions to be asked in Parliament.

The questions which were not allowed to be asked in the House included the following main questions:

- Were Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) harassed at airports and sent back?
- Have Chinese soldiers crossed the 'Actual Control Border' (LAC) in Ladakh and entered Indian territory?

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariats have cited time constraints and national security as the reasons for not allowing these questions.

Right to ask questions of MPs:

In both the Houses, elected members are asked in the form of Starred Questions, Unstarred Questions, Short Notice Questions and 'Questions to Private Members' from various different Ministries and Have the right to receive information from the departments.

Procedure for Admissibility of Questions:

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Normally, a long list of questions from MPs is prepared, which then goes through a rigorous process of approval.

- The conditions governing admissibility of questions are given in Rule 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha.
- Any query fulfilling the eligibility conditions, once received, is forwarded by the Secretariat to the Ministry concerned. After receipt of facts from the Ministry, the question is further examined for 'admissibility'.
- The final list of questions is sent to the ministers, on the basis of which they prepare their answers.

Regarding starred, unstarred and other categories of questions:

Starred Questions: These are the questions whose members want an oral answer from the minister in the House and these questions are kept asterisks for identification. After the answer to such question, supplementary questions may be asked thereon by the members.

Unstarred Questions: Written answers to these questions are given by the Ministers which are assumed to be laid on the Table of the House at the end of the Question Hour. Thus it is not called for oral answer and no supplementary question can be asked on it.

Short Notice Questions: Such questions can be asked orally in the House after Question Hour or as the first issue of the agenda if there is no Question Hour at less than the time stipulated for Starred and Unstarred Questions. .

These questions should relate to such matters as the Chairman may consider to be of urgent public importance. Notice of a question of urgent public importance may be given to be received by the

member for oral answer and which may be asked within a period of less than the notice period of 10 days specified for a general question. Such questions are known as 'short information questions'.

'Questions to Private Members': A question may be addressed to a private member under rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha or to a private member under rule 48 of the Rajya Sabha, provided that the subject matter of that question relates to any Bill, resolution or other matter relating to the conduct of business in the House for which that member is responsible.

What kind of questions can be asked?

- In Rajya Sabha, apart from various criteria, questions should be 'precise, specific and confined to one issue only; it shall not contain any name or statement which is not absolutely necessary to make the question intelligible; If it contains any statement, the member shall be responsible for the correctness of the statement; and must not contain arguments, inferences, sarcastic phrases, allegories, adjectives or defamatory statements.

- In the Lok Sabha, questions which have already been answered or refused to be answered are accepted; or matters which are pending for adjudication before any Court or Parliamentary Committee.

CAMPA Fund

So far, an amount of ₹ 48,606 crore has been distributed to 32 states by the Compensatory Afforestation Fund and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority.

Under the CAMPA fund, the maximum amount has been transferred to Chhattisgarh and Odisha, with each state giving about Rs 5,700 crore. They are

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followed by Jharkhand and Maharashtra, for which about Rs 3,000 crore have been given each.

What are CAMPA Funds?

The CAMPA Fund, an amount of Rs 54,000 crore collected over a period of nearly a decade as environmental compensation for destroying forest land by industries for their business plans, is part of the 'Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF)' long term. Pending arrears, is the 'Fund' created out of.

About CAMPA:

An independent authority to execute the 'CAMPA Fund' under the 'Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016' or the CAF Act 2016 (The CAF Act 2016) - 'Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority' (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority – CAMPA) has been established.

However, the rules governing the management of the fund were not finalized till last August.

What is 'Compensatory Afforestation'?

'Compensatory Afforestation' means that every time the forest land is used for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency shall be given an area equal to this forest land on the non-forest land. Pay for afforestation in the U.S. or, when non-forest land is not available for it, twice the area of degraded forest land.

Fund Distribution:

As per the rules, 90% of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) is distributed to the states and 10% is retained by the Centre.

This amount will be used for the treatment of catchment areas, natural regeneration, forest

management, wildlife conservation and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, man-wildlife conflict management, training and awareness, supply of wood saving equipment and for allied activities.

ACE2 protein

ACE2 is an enzyme molecule that binds the inner part of our cells to the outer part through the cell membrane.

In normal physiology, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) modulates an enzyme called angiotensin I to convert it to angiotensin II, which causes blood vessels to constrict. The narrowing of blood vessels causes an increase in blood pressure.

In this state, the ACE2 molecules are activated to counteract the effects of ACE, thereby dilating the blood vessels and lowering blood pressure.

The spikes in the 'crown' of the coronavirus bind to the ACE2 enzyme to enter our cells.