



# CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

## National Food Security Act, 2013:

- The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 has transformed into a legal authority for the existing food security programs of the Government of India.
- It includes programs like 'Mid-day Meal Scheme', 'Integrated Child Development Services Scheme' and 'Public Distribution System'.
- Maternity related rights have been recognized in this Act.

## What are 'Parliamentary Privileges'?

- Parliamentary Privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by Members of Parliament, individually and collectively, in order to "discharge their functions effectively".
- Article 105 of the Constitution clearly mentions two privileges. These are: Freedom of speech in Parliament and the right to publication of its proceedings.
- In addition to the privileges specified in the Constitution, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 prevents the arrest and detention of members under civil procedure during a sitting of the House or its committee and forty days before its commencement and forty days after its termination. Freedom has been provided.

## Motion against breach of privilege:

- In violation of any rights and immunities enjoyed by MPs, this offense is called a breach of privilege, and is punishable under the law of Parliament.
- A notice can be presented in the form of a motion against a person guilty of breach of privilege by any member of either House.

## Role of Speaker of Lok Sabha / Speaker of Rajya Sabha:

- For examining the privilege motion, the first level is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha / Speaker of the Rajya Sabha.
- Speaker of Lok Sabha / Speaker of Rajya Sabha can himself decide on the motion of privileges or refer it to the Committee of Privileges of Parliament.
- If the Speaker of the Lok Sabha / Speaker of the Rajya Sabha agrees to the motion under the relevant rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a brief statement with reference to the motion.

## Applicability:

- In the constitution, parliamentary privileges have also been given to all those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House of Parliament or any committee thereof. These members include the Attorney General of India and Union Ministers.
- However, despite being an integral part of the Parliament, the President does not enjoy parliamentary privileges. Article 361 of the Constitution provides for privileges for the President.

## Attorney General of India

### (Attorney General of India)

- The Attorney General of India is the Chief Legal Adviser to the Central Government, and is its Principal Advocate in the Supreme Court of India.
- It is a part of the federal executive.

## Appointment and Eligibility:

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

The appointment is made by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and he holds office during the pleasure of the President.

- He must be a qualified person to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- Must be an Indian citizen.
- Five years' experience as a Judge of a High Court of a State in India or 10 years as an Advocate in a High Court.
- According to the President, he should be an expert in judicial matters.

### Functions and Powers:

As the Chief Law Officer of the Government of India, the Attorney General has the following duties:

1. He advises the Government of India on specified legal matters relating to law. He also performs other legal duties assigned by the President.
2. The Attorney General has the right to be heard in all the courts of India. Apart from this, he has the right to speak or take part in the proceedings of both the houses of Parliament, he does not have the right to vote in the proceedings of the Parliament.
3. The Attorney General appears on behalf of the Government of India in all matters (including suits, appeals and other proceedings) in the Supreme Court.
4. He represents the Government of India in the Supreme Court in matters referred by the President under Article 143 of the Constitution.
5. The Attorney General cannot make any advice or analysis against the Government of India.

6. He cannot defend an accused in any criminal case without the permission of the Government of India and cannot hold the office of a director of any council or company without the permission of the Government.

7. The Attorney General is assisted by two Advocates General (Solicitor General) and four **Additional Advocates General.**

### What is 'World Intellectual Property Organization' (WIPO)?

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is one of the 17 specialized agencies of the United Nations.

- It was established in 1967 "to encourage creative activities and promote the protection of intellectual property around the world".
- At present, 193 countries of the world including India are members of WIPO.

### What is 'Intellectual Property'? (Intellectual Property- IP)

- It is a category of assets, which includes abstract works created by human intelligence and mainly copyrights, patents and trademarks.
- It also includes other types of rights such as trade secrets, publicity rights, moral rights and rights against unfair competition.

### About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):

The International Atomic Energy Agency was established in the year 1957 within the United Nations Organization as 'Atoms for Peace'.

- It is an international autonomous organization.
- The IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- Its headquarter is located in Vienna, Austria.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

## main work:

1. The IAEA works with its member states and various partners to promote the safe, sound and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.
2. Its purpose is to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and to prevent its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

## Programs run by IAEA:

1. Program of Action for Cancer Therapy- PACT
2. Human Health Program
3. Water Availability Augmentation Project
4. International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and the Fuel Cycle, 2000

## The International Labor Organization (ILO)

**The International Labor Organization (ILO) was established after the First World War as an agency for the League of Nations.**

- It was established in the year 1919 by the 'Treaty of Versailles'.
- The 'International Labor Organization' became the first specialized agency of the 'United Nations' in the year 1946.
- In the year 1969, 'Nobel Peace Prize' was awarded for this.
- It is the only tripartite agency of the United Nations, in which governments, employers and workers are involved together.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

**Major reports published by:** 1. World Employment and Social Outlook 2. Global Wage Report

## The ILO's fundamental Conventions

These cover subjects considered to be fundamental principles and rights at work:

- **Freedom of Association** and Protection of the **Right to Organise** Convention, 1948
- **Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining** Convention, 1949
- **Forced Labour** Convention, 1930
- **Abolition of Forced Labour** Convention, 1957
- **Minimum Age** Convention, 1973
- **Worst Forms of Child Labour** Convention, 1999
- **Equal Remuneration** Convention, 1951
- **Discrimination (Employment and Occupation)** Convention, 1958

# CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

## Shanghai Cooperation Organization

**The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organization.**

- The formation of the SCO was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- It was established in place of organization named 'Shanghai-5'.
- The Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter was signed during the meeting of the Heads of SCO countries in St. Petersburg in June 2002 and came into force on 14 April 2003.
- The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese.

### **The main goals of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization:**

- To strengthen mutual trust and goodwill among member states.
- To promote effective cooperation in politics, business, economy, research and technology and culture.
- To make joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region concerned.
- To establish a democratic, fair and rational neo-international political and economic system.

### **SCO members:**

The SCO consists of eight member states – Republic of India, Republic of Kazakhstan, People's Republic of China, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation,

Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

## Chandrayaan-2

### (Chandrayaan-2)

#### reference:-

Chandrayaan-2, which is orbiting over the Moon, has come to know about new information about the Sun's very hot outermost layer 'Corona'. These include:

1. Abundant amounts of magnesium, aluminum and silicon in the solar corona.
2. About 100 microflares were observed, providing new insights into the warming of the corona-mass.

#### **Due to the heating problem of Corona:**

The corona emits 'ultraviolet' rays and 'X-rays', and is composed of ionised gases at temperatures in excess of 2 million degrees Fahrenheit.

1. The surface just 1,000 miles below it is called the 'photosphere', and its temperature is only 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. The mysterious variation in temperature is called the corona heating problem or coronal heating problem.

The reason for this high temperature, according to the latest findings, could be the powerful magnetic field above the sunspots (dark spots visible in visible images of the Sun).

### **Chandrayaan-2 Mission:**

The 'Chandrayaan-2 mission' lost contact after making a 'hard landing' on the dark side of the moon in the year 2019, but it is still active as its orbiter and is orbiting the moon. To study the Sun, the 'Solar X-ray Monitor'

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

(XSM) mounted on Chandrayaan-2 has been used by the scientists.

1. The main objective of Chandrayaan-2 was to demonstrate the ability to soft-land on the lunar surface and operate a robotic rover on the surface.

2. This mission, consisted of an Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan) and was equipped with all scientific instruments to study the Moon.

### (Antarctic Treaty)

#### reference:

On 23 June 2021, the 60th anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty (23 June 1961) was celebrated.

#### Significance of this treaty:

1. This treaty, signed during the Cold War, by 12 countries with an interest in the Antarctic, is the only example of a single treaty applicable to an entire continent.

2. It is also the foundation of a rules-based international order for a continent with a temporary population.

#### The treaty was signed on a very different timescale; Does it currently have relevance?

• Although circumstances are fundamentally different in the 2020s than in the 1950s, the Antarctic Treaty has been able to successfully respond to many challenges.

• Antarctica, in part due to technology and climate change, is quite accessible and accessible.

• Apart from the original 12 countries, the real interests of many other countries have joined this continent.

• Some global resources, especially oil, are becoming increasingly scarce.

• There is also uncertainty about China's intentions regarding Antarctica. China joined the treaty in 1983 and became an advisory member in 1985.

• As a result, at some point in the future, more attention will be given to the prospects of mining in the Antarctic.

• Therefore, it seems inevitable to revisit the 'Restrictions on Mining in Antarctica'.

#### About Antarctic Treaty:

The Antarctic Treaty was signed by 12 countries in Washington on 1 December 1959 to preserve the Antarctic continent only for scientific research and to maintain a demilitarized zone.

• The twelve original signatories include Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States.

• This treaty came into force in 1961 and currently includes 54 countries. India became a member of this treaty in the year 1983.

• Headquarters: Buenos Aires, Argentina.

For all purposes of this treaty, Antarctica is defined as the ice-covered land south of 60°S latitude.

#### Major provisions of the treaty:

1. Antarctica shall be used only for peaceful purposes (Article-I).

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

2. Freedom of scientific research in Antarctica and cooperation in this direction will continue (Article-II).

3. Scientific observations and results from Antarctica will be exchanged and made freely available (Article-III).

4. By Article IV, territorial sovereignty shall be nullified, i.e. no new claim shall be made by any country on it or an existing claim shall be extended.

5. By this treaty, all disputes relating to claims made by any country on this continent were stopped.

### Antarctic Treaty System:

Controversies over the Antarctic continent have arisen over the years, but most disputes have been resolved through various agreements and expansions in treaty frameworks. This entire framework is now known as the Antarctic Treaty System.

### The Antarctic Treaty System is primarily made up of four major international agreements:

1. The Antarctic Treaty of 1959
2. 1972 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seal Fishes
3. 1980 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Life Resources
4. Protocol of 1991 on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty

### What is this?

In this voting system, voters have the opportunity to rank candidates based on

preference, rather than simply selecting their first choice.

Voters are given the option to rank the top candidates of their choice - although it is not mandatory for voters to rank all candidates.

### Advantages and logic of this process:

The ranking process of candidates is more complex, but its proponents believe it to be fair-system and more accurately reflect the collective will of the majority.

### Working method of this system:

If a candidate secures '50 percent plus one vote' (50% plus one) of the total votes after counting the 'first choice' votes, that candidate is declared the winner and the election ends. goes.

- However, if no candidate gets 50% plus one votes, the second round of counting begins.
- The candidate receiving the fewest 'first preference' votes is eliminated, and the 'second preference' votes received for him are redistributed to other candidates.
- This process of redistribution of votes continues until a candidate has secured '50% plus one' votes.

### Where else in the world is this system used?

- In the US, the 'rank choice voting' system is used in another 20 regions.
- This system has been used by Australia, Ireland and Malta since the early 20th century. It has also been implemented in Northern Ireland, New Zealand and Scotland.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

### Arguments being given in its favor:

1. In this system the winner gets the majority of the votes. In the commonly used 'most votes wins' system, the person with the most votes in the total number of votes is declared the winner, but does not necessarily have the support of a majority. .

2. More Moderate Candidates: In this system it is less likely that a fierce candidate, who has a strong base but is not widely liked, will be successful in a crowded election.

3. Reduction in negative publicity: The rationale for this is that candidates need a majority to like them.

4. Voters can feel good after voting. Instead of being compelled to choose a single candidate, voters can at least give first preference to the candidate of their actual choice.

### Arguments against it:

1. This is a fairly complex system, and complications can lead to errors.

2. Some argue that it is a less democratic system because it does not give importance to the idea of 'one person, one vote'.

3. This can encourage horse-trading. Rank choice voting may make voting less strategic, but it can also open the door for candidates to bargain with each other. In this, candidates can make an agreement about whom their voters will choose as the second preference.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013:

The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 aims at providing food and nutritional security in human life-cycle approach by providing adequate quantity of good quality food grains at affordable prices to the people to lead a dignified life. .

### Salient Features of the Act:

Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS): 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population will be covered under TPDS with uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month. However, the poorest families covered under the existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) will be ensured to be entitled to 35 kg per family per month.

Subsidized Prices under TPDS and Revision thereof: Foodgrains under TPDS i.e. rice, wheat and coarse cereals at subsidized price of Rs.3/2/1 per kg respectively for a period of 3 years from the date of commencement of this Act. will be provided. Thereafter these prices will be suitably clubbed with the MSP.

Identification of households: The work of identification of eligible households within the coverage prescribed for each State under TPDS will be done by the States/UTs.

Nutritional support for women and children: Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years with food as per the nutritional norms prescribed under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes would be entitled to. Higher nutritional standards have been prescribed for malnourished children up to the age of 6 years.

Nutritional support to women and children: Meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes to children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers will have the right. Higher nutritional standards have been prescribed for malnourished children up to the age of 6 years.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

Maternity Benefit: Rs.6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers. Maternity benefit will also be provided.

Women Empowerment: For the purpose of issuing ration card, a woman who is 18 years of age or above in the family will be considered as the head of the family.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Grievance Redressal Mechanism will be made available at district and state level.

### **Maintenance and transportation cost of food grains and benefits of Fair Price Shop (FPS) traders:**

The expenditure on transportation of food grains within the State, its maintenance and profit of Fair Price Shop (FPS) traders will be determined as per the norms framed for this purpose, and the States will be assisted by the Central Government to meet the above expenditure. Will go

Transparency and Accountability: In order to ensure transparency and accountability, provisions have been made for showing records relating to PDS, Social Audit and constitution of Vigilance Committees.

Food Security Allowance: In case of non-supply of suitable food grains or food, provision of food security allowance has been made for the beneficiaries.

Penalty or fine: If any public servant or authority fails to provide relief assistance as recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer, the fine will be imposed by the State Food Commission as per the provision.

UNESCO considers demoting the status of 'Great Barrier Reef'

### **(UNESCO to downgrade status of Great Barrier Reef)**

#### **reference:**

Recently, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ie the 'Great Barrier Reef' by UNESCO has been declared a 'threatened World Heritage Site' (In Danger World Heritage). Sites) has been recommended for inclusion in the list.

UNESCO attributed this decision to the dramatic loss of coral in the 'Great Barrier Reef'.

#### **Currently the subject of controversy:**

However, Australia has opposed UNESCO's move, and the decision is part of an ongoing dispute between UNESCO and the Australian government over the status/status of the iconic site.

- After UNESCO first debated its "endangered"/'endangered' status in 2017, Canberra spent more than 3 billion Australian dollars (1 billion pounds; \$2 billion) on improving coral reef health. expressed commitment.

- However, the reef has suffered several bleaching events in the past five years, which has resulted in the loss of large amounts of coral.

- According to scientists, the main reason for these coral-bleaching events is the rise in ocean temperature due to global warming caused by the combustion of fossil fuels.

#### **Australia's carbon emissions:**

Due to Australia's reliance on coal-fired electricity, it ranks among the world's highest per capita carbon emitting countries. In Australia, the country's fossil fuel industries have been consistently supported by the conservative



## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

government, arguing that tougher action on emissions would impact employment.

What are 'Threatened World Heritage Sites'?  
The 'In Danger World Heritage Sites' list is prepared in accordance with Article 11(4) of the 'World Heritage Convention' of 1972.

Purpose: The purpose of preparation of this list is to inform the international community about situations threatening/threatening a property with the 'characteristics' for which it has been included in the World Heritage List and to encourage corrective action.

### Criteria:

If the current status of a 'World Heritage property' is found to conform to any of the prescribed listed criteria, the World Heritage Committee may register that property on the 'World Heritage Site in Threatened' list.

**'World Heritage Site in danger'....**  
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

### Implication:

1. On listing a property in the list of 'World Heritage Site in danger', the 'World Heritage Committee' can immediately allocate assistance from the World Heritage Fund to the 'Dangerous Property'.
2. The inclusion of a 'World Heritage Site' in this list alerts the international community to these conditions, and is expected to aid efforts to save these endangered sites.
3. After inclusion in the list, the World Heritage Committee, in consultation with the country concerned, prepares and implements a program for corrective measures, and then monitors the condition of the site.

### What is 'Family Forestry'?

'Family Forestry' refers to entrusting the care of trees and the environment to the family, so that trees become a part of the consciousness of the family.

This concept which makes family the cornerstone of the society ensures the success of any social campaign.

### About the United Nations Convention on the Prevention of Desertification (UNCCD):

**UNCCD was established in the year 1994.**

- It is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- It is the only convention established under direct recommendations under Agenda 21 during the Rio Earth Summit.
- Focus Areas: UNCCD addresses the most vulnerable ecosystems and human populations, especially the arid, semi-arid and arid sub-humid regions, known as arid lands.

### Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission

**(J&K Delimitation Commission)**

### reference:

In order to hold assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, it would be necessary to delimit the seats in the Union Territory.

### Delimitation Required:

As per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission was constituted by the Central Government on March 6 last year, to re-delineate the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

The state was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by the 'Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act', 2019.

### What is 'delimitation'?

The literal meaning of 'Delimitation' is 'the process of determining the boundaries of territorial constituencies in a state having a legislative body'.

Execution of the 'Delimitation Process':

- The delimitation process is done by a high powered commission. This commission is formally called the Delimitation Commission or Boundary Commission.
- The orders of the Delimitation Commission have 'law-like' powers, and cannot be challenged before any court.

### Composition of the Commission:

According to the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002, the Delimitation Commission appointed by the Central Government consists of three members: a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court as the Chairperson, and the Chief Election Commissioner as ex-officio member or the Election Commissioner nominated by him, and State Election Commissioners.

### Constitutional Provisions:

1. Under Article 82 of the Constitution, a 'Delimitation Act' law is made by the Parliament of India after every census.
2. Under Article 170, after every census, the States are also divided into territorial constituencies according to the Delimitation Act.

### What is Green Hydrogen / Green Hydrogen?

Hydrogen produced by 'Electrolysis' using renewable/renewable energy is known as 'Green Hydrogen'. It does not contain any trace of carbon.

### Importance of Green Hydrogen:

- Green hydrogen energy is critical for India to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) goals and ensure regional and national energy security, access and availability.
- Green hydrogen can serve as an energy storage option, which will be important for bridging the renewable energy gap in the future.
- In terms of mobility, green hydrogen can be used in railways, large ships, buses or trucks, etc., for long distance travel or freight transportation within cities or between states.

### Applications of Green Hydrogen:

1. Green chemicals like ammonia and methanol can be directly used in the current needs like fertilizer, mobility, power, chemical, shipping etc.
2. Green hydrogen blending up to 10% may be adopted in the CGD network to gain wider acceptance.

### Benefit:

- It is a clean combustible molecule, capable of decarbonizing sectors such as iron and steel, chemicals and transportation.
- Green hydrogen will help reduce dependence on minerals and rare-earth element-based batteries for energy storage.
- Renewable energy that cannot be stored or used by the grid can be used to produce hydrogen

### Kerala's Silverline Project

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

It is Kerala's major 'semi high-speed' railway project, and aims to reduce travel time between the northern and southern ends of the state.

- The project connects the southern end of Kerala and the state capital Thiruvananthapuram with the northern end of Kasaragod.
- This line will be about 529.45 km long, and will pass through 11 districts of the state.
- The project is being executed by Kerala Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (KRDCL). KRDCL or K-Rail is a joint venture between the Government of Kerala and the Union Ministry of Railways.

### Public Accounts Committee:

#### (PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE- PAC)

1. The Public Accounts Committee is constituted every year. The maximum number of members in this is 22, out of which 15 members are elected from Lok Sabha and 7 members are elected from Rajya Sabha.
2. The term of the members is one year.
3. The chairman of the committee is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from amongst the members of the opposition.
4. Its main function is to examine the audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is placed in the Parliament.

### historical background:

The Public Accounts Committee is the oldest of the committees of the House. The Public Accounts Committee was first constituted in the

year 1921 in the wake of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

### Limitations of Public Accounts Committee:

1. Broadly speaking, it cannot interfere with policy questions.
2. It can monitor the expenditure only after it is incurred. It has no power to limit expenditure.
3. It cannot interfere in the matters of day to day administration.
4. The recommendations made by the committee are only advisory. These recommendations may also be neglected by the ministries.
5. For this, the departments do not have the power to stop the expenditure.
6. It is an executive body only and has no power to issue any orders. Only the Parliament can take the final decision on its findings.

### TB

**TB or tuberculosis/tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by a bacterium called Bacillus Mycobacterium tuberculosis.**

- It usually affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other parts of the human body.
- This disease is spread through the air of a person suffering from pulmonary TB through coughing or any other means.

### Efforts being made by India:

1. India is aggressively implementing a fully funded National Strategic Plan to End TB.
2. In India, 50 million people have been treated in the last few years.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

3. India is committed to accelerate TB preventive treatment (TPT) and activities at the national level.

4. India's effort is to meet the goals of the UN High-Level Meeting (UNHLM), under which, in the remaining 18 months, TB treatment will be provided to 40 million people globally and preventive treatment for 30 million people. Have to go

5. Sub-National Certification Program of States and Districts constituted in the year 2020: In this initiative, Districts/States/UTs are identified on 'Progress towards TB Free Status' under various categories, which are known as TB incidence. Decline is measured accordingly.

### India's Annual TB Report 2020:

1. Around 04 lakh TB patients have been notified in the year 2019. This is an increase of 14% in TB notification compared to the year 2018.

2. In the year 2017, there were more than 10 lakh un-notified cases of TB patients, which has come down to 9 lakh.

3. 78 lakh TB patients have been notified with an increase of 35% in the private sector.

4. The proportion of children with TB has increased to 8% in 2019 as compared to 6% in 2018.

5. HIV screening of all notified TB patients has increased from 67% in 2018 to 81% in 2019.

6. Extension of treatment services has improved the treatment success rate of notified patients by 12%. The rate for 2019 is 81%, compared to 69% in 2018.

### Food and Agriculture Organization

(FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION-FAO)

The 42nd session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conference was organized.

This is the first time that the FAO conference has been held in virtual mode.

### About the conference:

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) conference is held every two years and is the supreme governing body of the FAO.

2. In the conference, important tasks such as setting the organization's policies, budget approval and making recommendations to the member countries on food and agriculture issues are done.

### FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031:

In this year's conference, the 'Strategic Framework' 2022-2031 will be adopted by the member countries of the FAO.

- The objective of this framework is to ensure sustainable, through transforming agri-food systems into a more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable way of achieving better production, better nutrition, better environment and better lives, leaving no one behind. The development agenda is to cooperate in 2030.

- These Four Betters objectives, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 1 (poverty-elimination), SDG 2 (hunger-elimination), and SDG 10 (inequity reduction), The functions implemented by the FAO express the combination-principles.

### About the Food and Agriculture Organization

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

It is a specialized agency of the United Nations to lead efforts to eradicate hunger at the international level.

- **Headquarters: Rome, Italy**
- **Established: 16 October 1945**

- **FAO Goal:** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) aims to achieve food security for all, and ensure people have regular access to enough high quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

### **Important Reports and Programs (Brief Description):**

1. Global Report on the Food Crisis
2. Publication of global forest status every two years
3. In 1961, the Codex Alimentarius Commission was set up by the FAO and the World Health Organization to develop food standards and guidelines.
4. In the year 1996, FAO organized the World Food Summit. The Rome Declaration was signed at this summit, under which the goal of halving the number of people suffering from hunger by the year 2015 was set.
5. In 1997, the FAO launched a campaign of telefood, music, sporting events and other activities to help fight hunger.
6. The FAO Goodwill Ambassador Program was launched in the year 1999. The main objective of the program is to draw public and media attention to the people suffering from hunger and malnutrition even when there is enough food for about 1 billion people.
7. In the year 2004, guidelines related to the Right to Food were adopted, under which guidance was given for the nations to fulfill their obligations related to 'Right to Food'.

8. FAO established the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in 1952.

9. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, also called Plant Treaty– ITPGRFA, also known as 'Seed Treaty', on 29 June 2004 Yes, implemented.

10. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) partnership initiative was conceptualized in 2002 during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.

### **High level talks on 'desertification, soil erosion and drought'**

(High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought– DLDD)

### **reference:**

Recently, the 'United Nations Convention on the Prevention of Desertification' (UN Convention on the Prevention of Desertification) has been established to assess the progress of efforts to prevent soil erosion and to set the tone for the way forward on global efforts to restore and restore good lands. The High-Level Dialogue on 'Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD)' was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Prime Minister Modi is the chair of the 14th session of the 'Conference of the Parties' ie 'Conference of the Parties' of the United Nations Convention on Prevention of Desertification (UNCCD).

### **Healthy Land Requirement:**

Land is the foundation of our society and the cornerstone for global food security and environmental health, hunger-alleviation, poverty alleviation and affordable energy. This



## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

forms the basis for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Challenges:

- Globally, one-fifth of Earth's land area – more than 2 billion hectares – is degraded, and comprises more than half of the total agricultural land.
- If we do not change the soil management practices, then by the year 2050 more than 90% of the land can be degraded.
- Land degradation affects one-fifth of the Earth's land area and the livelihoods of 2 billion people, or about 40% of the global population.
- Land degradation accelerates climate change and biodiversity loss, and plays an important role in drought, forest fires, involuntary migration and the emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases.

### About United Nations Convention on Prevention of Desertification (UNCCD):

- UNCCD was established in the year 1994.
- It is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- It is the only convention established under direct recommendations under Agenda 21 during the Rio Earth Summit.
- Focus Areas: UNCCD addresses the most vulnerable ecosystems and human populations, especially the arid, semi-arid and arid sub-humid regions, known as arid lands.

### History of Tulu language and demand for official language status for it

#### reference:

There is a growing demand for Tulu language to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and to give it the status of an official language in Karnataka and Kerala.

### About Tulu language:

Tulu is a Dravidian language, spoken mainly in the two coastal districts of Karnataka, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, and Kasaragod district of Kerala.

- According to the 2011 census report, the number of Tulu speaking people in India is 18,46,427.
- 'Robert Caldwell' (1814-1891) in his book 'A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages' has described the Tulu language as "one of the most developed languages of the Dravidian family".
- The Tulu language has a rich oral literary tradition, including folk songs such as Paddana and traditional folk theater forms such as Yakshagana.

### Eighth Schedule of the Constitution:

In Part XVII of the Indian Constitution, provisions related to official languages have been made from Article 343 to Article 351.

### Constitutional Provisions relating to the Eighth Schedule:

1. Article 344: Article 344(1) provides for the constitution of a commission by the President on the expiry of five years from the commencement of the Constitution.
2. Article 351: Under this, for the development of Hindi language, provisions have been made regarding its dissemination, so that it can become a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

Currently, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri, a total of 22 languages.

### **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**

#### **Salient Features of the Act:**

Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS): 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population will be covered under TPDS with uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month. However, the poorest families covered under the existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) will be ensured to be entitled to 35 kg per family per month. Subsidized Prices under TPDS and Revision thereof: Foodgrains under TPDS i.e. rice, wheat and coarse cereals at subsidized price of Rs.3/2/1 per kg respectively for a period of 3 years from the date of commencement of this Act. will be provided. Thereafter these prices will be suitably clubbed with the MSP.

Identification of households: The work of identification of eligible households within the coverage prescribed for each State under TPDS will be done by the States/UTs.

Nutritional support for women and children: Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years with food as per the nutritional norms prescribed under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes would be entitled to. Higher nutritional standards have been prescribed for malnourished children up to the age of 6 years.

Nutritional support to women and children: Meals as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes to children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers will have the right. Higher nutritional standards have been prescribed for malnourished children up to the age of 6 years.

Maternity Benefit: Rs.6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers. Maternity benefit will also be provided.

Women Empowerment: For the purpose of issuing ration card, a woman who is 18 years of age or above in the family will be considered as the head of the family.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Grievance Redressal Mechanism will be made available at district and state level.

Maintenance and transportation cost of food grains and benefits of Fair Price Shop (FPS) traders: The expenditure on transportation of food grains within the state, its maintenance and profit of Fair Price Shop (FPS) traders as per the norms framed for this purpose. will be determined, and the States will be assisted by the Central Government to meet the above expenditure.

Transparency and Accountability: In order to ensure transparency and accountability, provisions have been made for showing records relating to PDS, Social Audit and constitution of Vigilance Committees.

Food Security Allowance: In case of non-supply of suitable food grains or food, provision of food security allowance has been made for the beneficiaries.

Penalty or fine: If any public servant or authority fails to provide relief assistance as recommended by the District Grievance Redressal Officer, the fine will be imposed by the State Food Commission as per the provision.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

### North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

#### (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

- It is an 'inter-governmental military alliance'.
- Was established by the 'Washington Treaty'.
- This treaty was signed on 4 April 1949.
- Headquarters – Brussels, Belgium.
- Allied Command Operations Headquarters' – Mons, Belgium.

#### structure:

- Since the founding of NATO, new member states have been joining the alliance.
- Initially, the NATO alliance consisted of 12 nations, which has since increased to 30 members.
- The last country to join the NATO alliance was 'North Macedonia', it was included on 27 March 2020.
- NATO membership is open to any 'European nation' capable of contributing to the advance of the principles of this Treaty and contributing to the security of the North Atlantic region.

#### What are 'Parliamentary Privileges'?

Parliamentary Privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, in order to "**discharge their functions effectively**".

- Article 105 of the Constitution clearly mentions two privileges. These are: Freedom of speech in Parliament and the right to publication of its proceedings.

- In addition to the privileges specified in the Constitution, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 prevents the arrest and detention of members under civil procedure during a sitting of the House or its committee and forty days before its commencement and forty days after its termination. Freedom has been provided.

#### Motion against breach of privilege:

- In violation of any rights and immunities enjoyed by MPs, this offense is called a breach of privilege, and is punishable under the law of Parliament.
- A notice can be presented in the form of a motion against a person guilty of breach of privilege by any member of either House.

#### Role of Speaker of Lok Sabha / Speaker of Rajya Sabha:

The first level is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha / Speaker of the Rajya Sabha, for examining the privilege motion.

- Speaker of Lok Sabha / Speaker of Rajya Sabha can himself decide on the motion of privileges or refer it to the Committee of Privileges of Parliament.
- If the Speaker of the Lok Sabha / Speaker of the Rajya Sabha agrees to the motion under the relevant rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a brief statement with reference to the motion.

#### Applicability:

- In the constitution, parliamentary privileges have also been given to all those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of either House of Parliament or any committee thereof. These members include the Attorney General of India and Union Ministers.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

- However, despite being an integral part of the Parliament, the President does not enjoy parliamentary privileges. Article 361 of the Constitution provides for privileges for the President.

### **election Commission of India:**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for conducting the Union and State election processes in India.

- Under Article 324 of the Constitution of India, provision has been made for the Election Commission to conduct, direct and control the elections to the offices of Parliament, State Legislature, President and Vice President and to prepare the electoral rolls.

- According to the Constitution, the Election Commission was established on 25 January 1950. That is why, January 25 is celebrated as National Voters' Day.

Composition of the Election Commission of India

### **The following provisions have been made in the Constitution regarding the composition of the Election Commission:**

1. The Election Commission is made up of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Commissioners
2. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners will be appointed by the President
3. When any other Election Commissioner is so appointed, the Chief Election Commissioner shall act as the Chairman of the Election Commission.
4. The President may, in consultation with the Election Commission, appoint Regional Commissioners to assist the Election Commission.

5. The conditions of service and the term of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be determined by the President.

### **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Election Commissioners (EC):**

Although the Chief Election Commissioner is the Chairman of the Election Commission, his powers are similar to those of other Election Commissioners. All matters of the Commission are decided by a majority vote among the members. The Chief Election Commissioner and both the other Election Commissioners get the same salary, allowances and other benefits.

### **Term of office:**

The term of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners is six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. He can resign at any time while addressing the President.

### **resignation:**

- The Election Commissioner can resign at any time or he can be removed even before the expiry of his term.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from his office in the same manner and on the same grounds as the Judges of the Supreme Court.

### **Limitations:**

- In the Constitution, no qualification (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) has been prescribed for the members of the Election Commission.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

- The Constitution does not prohibit retiring Election Commissioners from being re-appointed to any post by the government.

### A Model Citizen Manifesto for Panchayats

Aligning the works with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a Model Panchayat Citizens Charter has been issued for the delivery of services in 29 areas.

It has been prepared by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

### Importance:

This Citizens' Declaration will ensure transparent and effective delivery of public services for sustainable development while designing and delivering services and will enhance the inclusivity and accountability of local governments by incorporating diverse views.

### Need:

- Panchayats are the third level of government in rural areas and the first level of contact with the government for more than 60 percent of the Indian population.
- Panchayats are responsible for the delivery of basic services, especially health and sanitation, education, nutrition, drinking water, as prescribed in Article 243G of the Constitution of India.

### About Citizen Manifesto:

- The Citizens' Charters initiative is an answer to find solutions to the day-to-day problems faced by citizens while dealing with institutions providing public services.
- The concept of citizen declaration ensures trust between the service provider and its users.

- The concept was first introduced and implemented in the United Kingdom in 1991.

**The 'Citizen's Charter' movement as originally formulated included six principles:**

1. Quality: Improving the quality of services
2. Option: Wherever possible.
3. Standards: Specify what to expect and how to react if the standards are not met.
4. Value: To be understood as the value of taxpayers money.
5. Accountability: Individuals and Organizations.
6. Transparency.

### Concept of Citizen's Charter in India:

The concept of Citizen's Charter was adopted for the first time, in May 1997, at the 'Conference of Chief Ministers of various States and Union Territories' held in the national capital Delhi.

### 8th Global Nitrogen Conference

#### reference:

The 8th 'International Nitrogen Initiative Conference- INI2020' was scheduled to be held in Berlin, Germany on 3-7 May 2020. But, it was canceled last year due to the pandemic and recently, it was conducted in virtual-format.

### About International Nitrogen Initiative Conference:

- This initiative was established in the year 2003 under the sponsorship of 'Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)' and 'International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP)' .



## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

- It is a triennial event, in which scientists from all over the world engaged in research on reactive nitrogen compounds in agriculture, industry, transport, soil, water and air participate.

- Objective: To encourage the exchange of information and experiences between policy makers and other relevant stakeholders on outcomes, ideas and perspectives to improve future overall management of reactive nitrogen.

- This program is currently an ongoing participant of the organization 'Future Earth'.

### **Nitrogen as an essential nutrient:**

- Nitrogen is the most abundant element in the atmosphere, and is an important macronutrient for most plants.

- The amount of nitrogen in the dry air found in the Earth's atmosphere is a little over 78%. But this atmospheric nitrogen, or dinitrogen, is inactive, and cannot be used directly by plants.

- Therefore, bacteria such as nitrogen-fixing rhizobia provide nitrogen to plants and soil in the form of reactive compounds such as 'ammonia' and 'nitrate'. Nitrogen-fixing bacteria live symbiotically with leguminous plants.

### **How does nitrogen change from a nutrient to a pollutant and how does it affect health and the environment?**

- Nitrogen compounds released from agricultural land cause water pollution problems around the world, while nitrogen emissions from industry, agriculture and vehicles are the major contributors to air pollution.

- More than 80% of the nitrogen present in the soil is not used by humans. Whereas more than four-fifths of nitrogen is used to feed the animals. Only six percent of nitrogen reaches humans through non-vegetarian diets, while

about 20% of nitrogen is consumed by humans through vegetarian diets.

When nitrogen is released into the environment, and reacts with other organic compounds, it is converted into a pollutant. Nitrogen, as a pollutant, is either released into the atmosphere, dissolves in water sources such as rivers, lakes or groundwater, or remains in the soil.

### **Effect of Nitrogen Pollution on Environment:**

- It plays an important role in the production of harmful algae in waterways and oceans; These algae produce toxins that are harmful to humans and aquatic organisms and indirectly affect fisheries and biodiversity in coastal areas.

- Drinking water contamination: potentially 10 million people in Europe are exposed to drinking water with higher than recommended levels of nitrate concentrations. It can have adverse effects on human health.

- Food Security: Excessive use of nitrogen fertilizers leads to depletion of soil nutrients. The loss of arable land is a major global problem as the world needs more food grains to support the ever-increasing population.

- Nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas that is harmful to the environment.

### **A new world record set by China's 'artificial sun' experimental fusion reactor**

#### **reference:**

A new record has been set during a latest experiment by China's 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' (EAST), in which it has been able to produce a plasma temperature of 216 million Fahrenheit (120 million degrees Celsius) for a period of 101 seconds. achieved success.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

This 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' (EAST) is also called 'Artificial Sun'.

### Significance of this achievement:

The Sun's center is believed to have a temperature of 15 million °C, and this achievement means that the temperature produced by EAST is 'about seven times the temperature of the Sun'.

This is an important step in China's efforts to produce clean and unlimited energy with minimal waste products.

### What is 'EAST'?

The 'Energy Generation Process of the Sun' is being simulated in the 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' (EAST) mission.

The 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' reactor, is an 'Advanced Nuclear Fusion Experimental Research Device' and is located in Hefei, China.

**It is one of the three major indigenous tokamak currently operating across the country.**

The EAST project is part of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) programme. The ITER facility will start operations in the year 2035, after which it will become the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor.

The ITER project is being contributed by several countries including India, South Korea, Japan, Russia and the United States.

### How does the 'Artificial Sun' EAST work?

This 'Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak' ie EAST, simulates the 'Nuclear Fusion Process' taking place by the Sun and stars.

For nuclear fusion, extreme heat and pressure are applied to the hydrogen atoms so that they melt and fuse together.

The 'deuterium' and 'tritium' nuclei found in hydrogen fuse together to form heavy helium nuclei, and in this process a huge amount of energy is released, including neutron molecules.

In this, the fuel is heated to temperatures in excess of 150 million degrees Celsius, creating a hot plasma "soup" of 'subatomic particles'.

With the help of a powerful magnetic field, the plasma is kept away from the walls of the reactor, as the 'plasma' is expected to cool down and lose its ability to generate large amounts of energy when it comes into contact with the reactor surface.

The plasma is confined for a long period of time for the fusion reaction to occur.

### Why is the fusion process better than the fission process?

Although fission of a nucleus is an easy process, it emits a large amount of nuclear waste.

Like the fission process, the fusion process does not emit greenhouse gases and carries the risk of accidents and is considered a safe process.

Once control of the fusion process is achieved, nuclear fusion can potentially yield unlimited clean energy at a much lower cost.

Which other countries have achieved this feat? China is not the only country to achieve high plasma temperatures. In the year 2020, South Korea's KSTAR reactor set a new record by achieving a plasma temperature of over 100 million degrees Celsius for 20 seconds.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

During the pandemic, the specific DM Act 2005 to be implemented for the first time

### reference:

Recently, Alapan Bandyopadhyay, former Chief Secretary of West Bengal has been issued a show cause notice by the Union Home Ministry under Section 51 of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005. The offense under this section shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 came into existence after the 2004 tsunami.

### Related case:

The former Chief Secretary of West Bengal did not attend the review meeting conducted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at cyclone-hit Kalaikunda in West Bengal on May 28. In this way, they acted like refusing to comply with the valid directions of the Central Government and thus violated Section 51 (b) of the Act.

### Section 51 of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005:

Under the Act, refusal to comply with any direction given by the Central Government or a State Government or a National Executive Committee or a State Executive Committee or a District Authority, the "punishment for causing disturbance" has been prescribed by this section.

It said that on conviction of the contravention, imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

It said that if "refusal to comply with directions causes loss of life or imminent danger, shall be punished with imprisonment of either

description for a term which may extend to two years".

### Recent use of this section:

Under this section, spitting in public was made a punishable offense in April last year by the Ministry of Home Affairs through a special provision.

### "Wearing face masks in public places made mandatory".

On March 30, 2020, following the sudden announcement of nationwide lockdown, thousands of migrants gathered at Delhi's Anand Vihar railway station, for which two Delhi government officials were suspended for dereliction of duty and two other officials. Show cause notice issued by the Centre.

### The Tulsa Racial Massacre of 1921

The Tulsa Race Massacre, which took place in May-June of 1921, is one of the worst violent racial hatred incidents in modern America's history.

In this racial genocide in Tulsa, Oklahoma state, white mobs targeted relatively prosperous African-Americans with mass murders and extensive damage to property.

Tulsa was considered an 'informal sanctuary-city' for African Americans suffering because of 'Jim Crow' laws or extremely stringent segregation laws in the US before 'civil rights' came into force. This city was also called the "Black Wall Street" of America.

### Reason for discussion:

US President Joe Biden, recently became the first US head of state to officially acknowledge

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

the event.

H10N3 bird flu strain

### reference:

Recently, the world's first case of human being infected with the H10N3 bird flu strain has been reported in China.

### About H10N3 Bird Flu:

H10N3 is a type of bird flu or bird flu (avian flu). These diseases are commonly found in wild aquatic birds around the world and can infect domestic poultry species and other bird and animal species.

### Diffusion and Transmission:

Avian flu virus is spread through saliva, mucus, and feces of infected birds, and when the virus gets into a human's eyes, nose, or mouth in large enough quantities, or through contact with these infected substances. Humans can become infected by inhaling a person through the respiratory process.

### Cause for concern:

Denying concerns about an outbreak, health officials said that the case was a sporadic transmission of the virus from poultry to humans, and the risk of spreading the pandemic is very low.

H10N3 is a low pathogenic or relatively less severe type of virus found in poultry birds, and the risk of widespread spread is very low.

### Measures to prevent the spread of H10N3 in humans:

Individuals should avoid contact with sick or dead domestic birds and as much as possible avoid direct contact with live birds.

People should pay attention to food hygiene at this time.

People should wear masks and be aware of self-protection, with frequent monitoring of fever and respiratory symptoms.

### Different strains of bird flu:

Several strains of bird flu have been found in animals in China, but no large-scale outbreaks in humans have yet occurred.

The last human pandemic caused by bird flu in China was caused by the H7N9 virus during 2016–2017.

H5N8 is a subtype of the 'Influenza A' virus (also known as the bird flu virus). H5N8, although less dangerous to humans, is highly fatal to wild birds and domestic birds.

In April, in the city of Shenyang in northeastern China, a highly pathogenic H5N6 avian flu infection was detected in wild birds.

Classification: Influenza A viruses are classified into subtypes based on two types of proteins, hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA). For example, a virus that contains HA 7 protein and NA 9 protein is called 'H7N9' subtype/subtype.

### What is the '17+1' initiative?

The '17+1' initiative (17+1 initiative), a model led by China, was established in 2012 in Budapest.

Its purpose was to expand cooperation between the member countries of 'Central and Eastern Europe' and Beijing for investment and trade for the development of the 'Central and Eastern European-CEE' region.

The framework also focuses on infrastructure projects such as modernization of bridges,

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

motorways, railway lines and ports in member states.

China benefits from this initiative: - According to China, the 17+1 initiative has been launched to improve its relations with less developed European countries as compared to Western European states.

However, the forum is widely seen as an extension of China's flagship Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Formation of '17+1' Initiative: In this initiative twelve member countries of the European Union and five Balkan nations- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia.

### What is 'Sedition'?

According to Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), "by any person, whether by words, in writing or by speech, or by signs, or by visual display, or in any other manner, established by the Government of Against, showing hatred or contempt, abetment or attempt to incite provocation, shall be punishable with imprisonment for life, and with fine, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with fine only.

### A proper definition needed:

The sedition law has been in controversy for a long time. Governments are often criticized by outspoken critics of their policies for using the 'Section 124-A' law of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Therefore, this section is seen as a restriction on the freedom of expression of individuals, and in a way comes under the provisions of reasonable

restrictions on freedom of expression provided under Article 19 of the Constitution.

This law was enacted by the colonial British rulers in the 1860s, since that time this law has been a matter of debate. Several top leaders of the freedom movement, including Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, were booked under the sedition law.

This law was described by Mahatma Gandhi as the "Prince of Political Sections of the Indian Penal Code prepared to infringe upon the liberties of the citizen".

Describing the law as "highly objectionable and reprehensible", Nehru said "it should have no place in any law provisions passed by us" and "the sooner we get rid of it the better."

### Relevant judgments of the Supreme Court in this context:

#### Kedar Nath Singh Vs. State of Bihar Case (1962):

While hearing a case relating to offenses under Section 124A of the IPC, a five-judge Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court laid down certain guiding principles in Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar case (1962).

The court had ruled that dislike of the actions of the government, however harshly expressed, would not be punishable if it did not result in a breach of public order by violent acts.

Balwant Singh v State of Punjab (1995) case: In this case, the Supreme Court had clarified that mere raising of slogans, in this case such as 'Khalistan Zindabad', is not sedition.

Clearly, the sedition law is being misinterpreted and misused to suppress dissent. Proposal to declare 30 January as 'World Day of Neglected Tropical Diseases'



## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

Presented by all the delegates, at the 74th session of the World Health Assembly, by the United Arab Emirates to declare 30 January as 'World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day' The motion has been accepted unanimously.

### **About 'Neglected Tropical Diseases':**

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) are common infections found in marginalized communities in developing regions of Africa, Asia and the Americas.

These diseases are caused by a variety of pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, protozoa and parasitic worms.

For these diseases, much less is usually spent on research and treatment than for diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV-AIDS and malaria.

Some examples of 'neglected tropical diseases' (NTDs) are snakebite, scabies, yaws, trachoma, kala-azar (leishmaniasis), Chagas.

**WHO's new road map for 2021-2030 calling for three strategic changes to eradicate 'neglected tropical diseases':**

### **Instead of measuring the process, the effect will be measured.**

In place of disease-specific planning and programming, collaborative work in all areas will also be introduced.

Instead of an externally driven agenda, country-owned and country-funded programs will be introduced.

### **Reason for choosing '30 January' for 'World Neglected Tropical Disease Day':**

On this day, 30 January 2012, the 'London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases' was implemented Unofficially, the first 'World Neglected Tropical Disease Day' was observed in the year 2020.

### **Why do 'neglected tropical diseases' need special attention?**

Globally, more than a billion people are affected by 'neglected tropical diseases' (NTDs). Although these diseases are preventable and treatable, they continue to cause devastating health, social and economic consequences, because of poverty and their complex interrelationships with ecosystems.

### **The prevalence of these diseases:**

Children are the most vulnerable to neglected tropical diseases, and these diseases cause millions of deaths or permanent disabilities every year, often resulting in physical pain and social stigma throughout life.

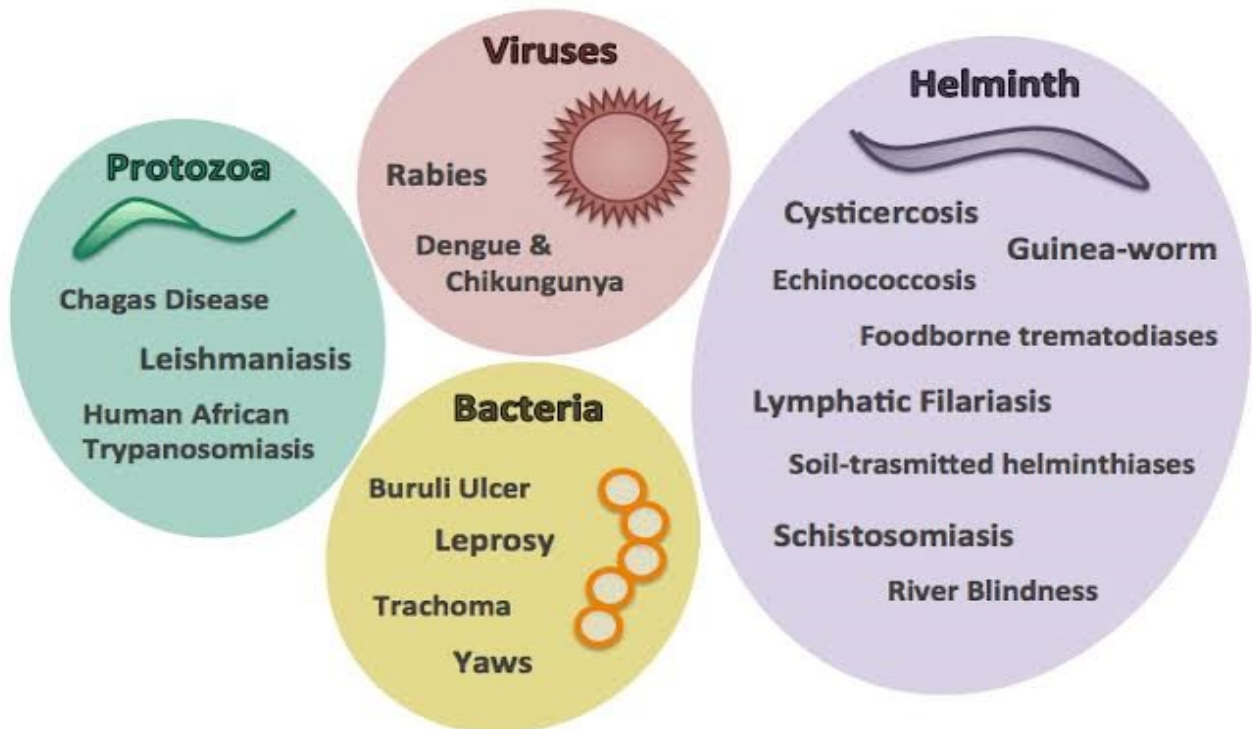
### **Policies for Research on Neglected Diseases in India:**

The National Health Policy (2017) emphasizes promoting innovation to meet health needs and ensure access to affordable new medicines to those most in need, but does not specifically address neglected diseases. has gone.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS UPSC-2022

Infectious tropical diseases have been included in the National Policy for the Treatment of Rare Diseases (2018) and stresses the need to conduct research on the treatment of rare diseases. However, the priority of diseases and areas has not yet been determined for research funding under this policy.

### Neglected Tropical Diseases



CAREER