

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**Compulsory Rural Service for Doctors**

The Supreme Court has suggested the Union Government and the Medical Council of India to have a uniform policy regarding the compulsory service to be rendered by the doctors who are trained in government institutions.

- The Association of Medical Super Specialty Aspirants and Residents and others had challenged the state government's regulations that imposed a condition of compulsory service for a minimum fixed period with the state. Doctors complained that such a condition violated the right of an individual to carry on his profession, amounted to 'forced labour' in violation of their constitutional right and would impede the progress of their careers.
- However, the Supreme Court ruled that doctors across the country are bound by the compulsory bonds executed by them at the time of their admission in post-graduate and super-speciality medical courses.
- Compulsory Bonds: It binds doctors with conditions to serve in their respective states for a certain fixed period, in rural areas. The doctors' original mark-sheets, certificates and other documents are also usually retained by the state authorities after the completion of speciality courses.
 - Compulsory service is in the larger public interest and beneficial for deprived sections of society, the top court ruled in favour of the policy of various state governments to have compulsory bonds to be executed by the doctors before their admissions to PG and super specialty courses.
 - In the urban areas, there are 176 doctors for every 100,000 people. In the rural area, the figure is an abysmal less than eight doctors for every 100,000 people scattered over large areas. And every year around 31,000 doctors graduate from 269 private and government medical colleges in India.

Need of Compulsory Bonds

- There is a need to provide healthcare to people and due to the scarcity of super specialists in their states, it is not arbitrary to utilise the services of doctors who were beneficiaries of government assistance.
- The state governments have introduced compulsory service bonds to protect the fundamental right of the deprived sections of society guaranteed to them under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Violation of Fundamental Right

- The appellants contended that their rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India have been violated.
- The SC rejected this argument on the grounds that, while balancing communitarian dignity vis-à-vis the dignity of private individuals, the scales must tilt in favour of communitarian dignity.

NEXT Exam

- The Union Health Ministry to prepare itself for the implementation of the common final year undergraduate medical examination (NEXT) which will come into effect in three years.
- The National Medical Commission Act has proposed a common exit examination — National Exit Test (NEXT), at the end of the MBBS course.
- This test shall be held to grant a license to practice and will also be the basis of admission to postgraduate courses.
- According to the government, the NEXT will be as effective as the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) which will ensure that only deserving candidates get admission in a private medical institute.
 - As per the earlier provisions, any student who obtains 50% marks in class 12, could gain admission to MBBS courses.

- Colleges negotiated with students and conducted their own admission tests in a totally non-transparent manner. As a result, many undeserving students got admission.
- Now only NEET qualified students can get admission, which ensures that merit prevails in admissions.
- NEXT will ensure that there is a certain standard of medical graduates who pass out from medical colleges.

Breast milk banks to ensure all infants get protective cover

A breast milk bank proposed by the Neonatology Forum (NNF), Kerala, is expected to provide solutions to all such babies who required intensive care at birth or are not able to be breastfed immediately for various other reasons. There are many mothers who are not able to produce breast milk for various medical reasons.

About the milk bank

- Any lactating mother can donate to the bank.
- The milk stored in the bank will be pasteurized and would follow the international guidelines for safety.
- Such milk becomes a blessing for working mothers who require joining work soon after their maternity leave.
- Breast Milk Bank provides a cheaper option for the needy.

Protection

- India faces the challenge of having the highest number of low birth weight babies with 20% mortality and morbidity in various hospitals.
- Death of preterm babies is among three major causes of neonatal deaths. In all the neonatal intensive care units, about one-third of the babies would be preterm.
- Feeding these babies with breast milk can significantly bring down the risk of infections.
- These milk banks help the baby not just with the feed, but gives protection from many infections because of its inherent property to provide immunity to the infant.

On WHO guidelines

- The World Health Organisation has said that breast milk is “tailor made” for human infants.
- If for some reason, mother is not able to feed the infant, her milk should be expressed and fed, according to WHO.
- The Neonatology Forum had been following this diktat and insists that the newborns are aggressively breastfed in the first hour.

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY

Arab ki Sarai Baoli

Arab ki Sarai Baoli is being revived by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and Agha Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) with the support of German Embassy.

- Arab Ki Sarai Baoli was built in the 1560s by Hamida Banu Begum, who was wife (chief consort) of Mughal emperor Humayan, to accommodate 300 Arabs whom she had brought from Mecca.
- It is situated within the premise of Humayun's Tomb Complex, Delhi.
- It is a unique ‘L’ shaped Baoli.

Baoli

- Baolis or step-wells refer to man-made water tanks.
- The main purpose of baoli is water conservation and groundwater recharge.
- The structures bear witness to the fact that even before the modern world became aware of the threats of depleting freshwater, people in those times realised the gravity of conservation.

Baoli in Delhi

- There are around 14 baolis in Delhi namely Tughlaqabad Fort Baoli, Rajon Ki Baoli, Gandhak Ki Baoli, Qutub Sahib Ki Baoli, Anangtal Baoli, Wazirpur Monument Complex Baoli, Hazrat Nizamuddin Ki Baoli, Arab Ki Sarai Baoli, Purana Quila Baoli, Agrasen Ki

Baoli, Feroz Shah Kotla Fort Baoli, Red Fort Baoli, Hindu Rao Hospital Baoli and Dwarka Baoli.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

Final National Register of Citizens

The final National Register of Citizens (NRC) to be published on August 31, 2019.

- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) clarified that those not included in the final list of the (NRC) in Assam will get 120 days to appeal against their exclusion in the Foreigners' Tribunal.
- Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final NRC, can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals.
 - Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, only Foreigners Tribunals are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. Thus, non-inclusion of a person's name in NRC does not by itself amount to him/her being declared as a foreigner.
- However, the final publication of the NRC poses a legal challenge for the Election Commission of India (ECI).
 - ECI in 1997, while revising the state's voter list, introduced a new category of voters for Assam marked as 'D' (Doubtful) voters.
 - D voters are a category of voters in Assam whose citizenship is doubtful or under dispute.
 - While 'D' voters continue to remain on Assam's electoral roll, they cannot vote in an election unless their case is decided by a Foreigners' Tribunal. However, those excluded from the draft NRC were allowed to vote, creating an anomaly.
 - So, ECI has to revise the D-voters list in a short span of time.

Foreigners' Tribunals

- The Foreigners' Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to "furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Act, 1946".
- The MHA constitutes foreigners tribunals whenever required to look into the question of whether a person is or not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Tribunals act, 1946.
- In the backdrop of finalization of NRC, this order was amended in 2019, to empower individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Baltic Nations

The Vice President of India is on a trip to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia from 17th-21st August 2019, the first-ever high-level visit from India to the three Baltic countries.

- The Vice President's visit to the three Baltic nations is to advance India's outreach to the important countries in the region.
- The V.P. also expressed gratitude to Latvia and Lithuania for backing India for permanent membership in an expanded and reformed United Nations Security Council.
- The Vice President addressed the first-ever India-Latvia Business Forum and called for taking the bilateral trade and economic cooperation to new heights.
- He also unveiled the bust of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi at the National Library of Latvia.
- The Vice President's visit to Estonia includes talks on the development of bilateral relations as well as possible cooperation in the UN and international organizations.

Baltic Countries

- Baltic states, the northeastern region of Europe, includes the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.
- The Baltic states are bounded on the west and north by the Baltic Sea, which gives the region its name, on the east by Russia, on the southeast by Belarus, and on the southwest by Poland and an exclave of Russia

- In 1991, their then popularly elected governments declared independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) with overwhelming support.
- The Baltic region is not rich in natural resources. Though Estonia is an important producer of oil shale, a large share of mineral and energy resources is imported.
- Agriculture remains important to the Baltic economy, with potatoes, cereal grains, and fodder crops produced and dairy cattle and pigs raised.
- India and Baltic countries have historical connect and common linguistic roots. The cutting edge technology and innovation ecosystems of the Baltic countries complement India's huge market and appetite for these technologies.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

Baya Weaver

- Baya weaver (*Ploceus philippinus*) is a bird found in South and Southeast Asia.
- The bird is known for its nest building skills, it makes a long hanging nest with a bulbous chamber and a narrow tubular entrance.
- The construction of the nest is initiated by a male Baya Weaver but completes it only after getting a female mate.
- Grasslands are the natural habitat of the Baya weaver. Rapid urbanization and change in land use pattern have led to the loss of habitat of the bird.
- However, its IUCN Red List status is Least concern.

M-Sand

In three months, the TN State government will put in place an M-sand policy that aims to promote the use of M-sand as an alternative building material. It is aimed to eliminate the pervasion of sub-standard products in the market through regulation of trade.

Manufactured sand (M-Sand)

- M-sand is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction.
- Manufactured sand is produced from hard granite stone by crushing.
- The crushed sand is of cubical shape with grounded edges, washed and graded to as a construction material.
- The size of manufactured sand (M-Sand) is less than 4.75mm.

Why use M-sand?

- Manufactured sand is an alternative for river sand.
- Due to fast growing construction industry, the demand for sand has increased tremendously, causing deficiency of suitable river sand in most part of the world.
- Due to the depletion of good quality river sand for the use of construction, the use of manufactured sand has been increased.
- Another reason for use of M-Sand is its availability and transportation cost.
- Since manufactured sand can be crushed from hard granite rocks, it can be readily available at the nearby place, reducing the cost of transportation from far-off river sand bed.
- Thus, the cost of construction can be controlled by the use of manufactured sand as an alternative material for construction.
- The other advantage of using M-Sand is, it can be dust free, the sizes of m-sand can be controlled easily so that it meets the required grading for the given construction.
- Usage of M-sand prevents dredging of river beds to get river sand which may lead to environmental disaster like ground water depletion, water scarcity.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Nothing changes if nothing changes.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: What changes may be the rolling out of the National Register of Citizens bring? Examine the challenges for its implementation.

National Register of Citizens, 1951 is a register prepared after the conduct of the Census of 1951 in respect of each village, showing the houses or holdings in a serial order and indicating against each house or holding the number and names of persons staying therein. Recently the MHA has rolled out the updated NRC in Assam.

Impact

- An updated NRC is likely to put an end to speculations about the actual number of illegal migrants in Assam in particular and the country in general.
- It will provide a verified dataset to carry out meaningful debates and implement calibrated policy measures.
- Publication of an updated NRC is expected to deter future migrants from Bangladesh from entering Assam illegally.
- The publication of the draft NRC has already created a perception that staying in Assam without valid documentation will attract detention/jail term and deportation.
- More importantly, illegal migrants may find it even more difficult to procure Indian identity documents and avail all the rights and benefits due to all Indian citizens.
- Inclusion of their names in the NRC will provide respite to all those Bengali speaking people in Assam who have been, hitherto, suspected as being Bangladeshis.

Challenges

- Flawed Process - People who found themselves on the first list that was released on January 1, 2018, didn't find their names in the second. Even the family of a former President of India did not mention on the list.
- The parallel processes of NRC, the voters list of the Election Commission, and the Foreigners' Tribunals with the help of the Assam Border Police, have led to utter chaos, as none of these agencies are sharing information with each other.
- Though the draft provides a window for re-verification, due to large number of people being excluded from the list, it will be very difficult to physically verify all of them.
- Since such 'non citizens' can resort to judicial relief to substantiate their citizenship claim, it can lead to overburdening of judiciary which already reels under large number of pending cases.
- There is uncertainty about the future of those left out from the list.
- Expelling them to Bangladesh is not an option since Dhaka has never accepted that they are its citizens or that there is a problem of illegal immigration. In the absence of a formal agreement, India cannot forcibly push the illegal migrants back into Bangladesh.
- Moreover, raising this issue can also jeopardise relations with Dhaka. Such an attempt would not only damage bilateral relations but also sully the country's image internationally.
- Apart from deportation, the other option is large scale detention camps - which is an unlikely option for a civilised democracy like India.
- Another option is instituting work permits, which would give them limited legal rights to work but ensure they have no political voice. However, it is not clear what will be the fate of children of such individuals.
- With no end to uncertainty, NRC seems to be a process without an end.

Way Forward

- India, as a country which follows the ideology of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', should not be hasty in taking decisions that can disenfranchise her citizens – contradicting its centuries-followed values.
- The need of the hour is that Union Government should clearly chart out the course of action regarding the fate of excluded people from final NRC data and political parties should refrain from coloring the entire NRC process through electoral prospects that may snowball in to communal violence.
- There is a need for a robust mechanism of legal support for the four million who have to prove their citizenship to India with their limited means.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQ

1. The proposed National Exit Test (NEXT) is related to which of the following fields?
 - (a) Engineering Service
 - (b) **Medical Service**
 - (c) Statistical Service
 - (d) Legal Service
2. Which of the following states has planned to initiate a Breast Milk Bank to prevent new born malnourishment?

- (a) **Kerala**
- (b) Maharastra
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Goa

3. With reference to 'Baya Weaver', which of the following statements is/are NOT correct?
 1. It is a bird found only in South Asia.
 2. Grasslands are the natural habitat of the Baya weaver.
 3. The bird has been classified as 'endangered' in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) **1 and 3**
- (d) 2 and 3

4. Consider the following statements:
 1. Baolis are step-wells referring to man-made water tanks.
 2. Arab Ki Sarai Baoli is situated within the premise of Humayun's Tomb Complex in Delhi.
 3. It is a unique 'L' shaped Baoli built in the 1560s by Mughal emperor Akbar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) **1 and 2**
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

5. Consider the following statements:
 1. Baltic States include the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
 2. The Baltic States are bounded on the east and south by the Baltic Sea, which gives the region its name.

3. Recently, the Vice President of India has unveiled the bust of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi at the National Library of Latvia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) **1 and 3**
- (d) 2 and 3

6. Consider the following statements:
 1. The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is the register containing names of Indian citizens, published only once in 1951.
 2. Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case to the Foreigners Tribunals.
 3. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) **1, 2 and 3**

7. Consider the following statements with reference to M-Sand.
 1. It is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction.
 2. It is produced from hard granite stone by crushing.
 3. The size of the sand more than 4.75mm.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) **1, 2 and 3**