

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**

**Chief Justice Of India (CJI)**

President of India Ramnath Kovind formally announced that Sharad Arvind Bobde will be next Chief Justice Of India (CJI).

About:

- Justice Bobde will be India’s 47th CJI. Justice Bobde will take oath on November 18 after the incumbent CJI Ranjan Gogoi retires from office.
- He has been chosen following the rule of seniority and his name was recommended by CJI Gogoi in a letter to the Centre.
- His tenure as CJI will last for 17 months and he is due to retire in April 2021.

Related Info :

- Appointment of CJI: Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides for the manner of appointing judges to the Supreme Court (SC). But there is no specific provision in the Constitution for appointing the Chief Justice.
  - CJI should be the senior most judge of the Supreme Court (SC). Law Minister to seek recommendation of the outgoing CJI for appointment of new CJI at an appropriate time.
  - In case of doubt about the fitness of the senior-most Judge to hold office of CJI consultation with other Judges under Article 124(2) to be made.
  - Law Minister to put up recommendation to Prime Minister (PM) who will advise the President on appointment.
- Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by:
  - The date a judge was appointed to the SC.
  - If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day, (1) the one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another; (2) if both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would ‘win’ in the seniority stakes; (3) an appointment from the bench would ‘trump’ in seniority an appointee from the bar.
- Tenure:
  - Once appointed, the Chief Justice remains in office until the age of 65 years.
  - Article 124(4) of Constitution of India provides that a SC Judge including CJI can be moved only through a process of impeachment by Parliament.

**GOVERNANCE- WELFARE SCHEMES, E-GOVERNANCE, SERVICES ETC.**

**Extending RTE Act up to Class 12**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has tweaked the draft National Education Policy (NEP) to dilute the provision on extending the Right to Education (RTE) Act up to Class 12 and also include three years of early childhood education. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992. The draft NEP was submitted by a group of experts, led by former ISRO chief K Kasturirangan, to the MHRD in June, and uploaded online for public feedback.

Key Points

- The final NEP has tweaked the suggestion in the draft policy on starting a National Tutors Programme (NTP) and Remedial Instructional Aides Programme (RIAP). Both were meant to strengthen basic reading and mathematics skills.
- **Note:** The 2018 ASER Report showed that more than half of Class VIII students cannot correctly solve a numerical division problem and more than a quarter of them cannot read a primary-level text.

Issues	Draft NEP	Final NEP
NTP and RIAP	Under NTP, the best performers in each school would have been roped in for up to five hours a week as tutors during school hours for fellow students who need help. RIAP was a 10-year project to draw instructors, especially women, from local communities to help students who have fallen behind and bring them back into the fold.	The final NEP has endorsed only one-on-one peer tutoring.

<b>Institutional System for Higher Education</b>	The draft had proposed a new three-tier institutional system for higher education. Under this, by 2030, all institutions will either become research universities or teaching universities or colleges running undergraduate programmes.	In the final NEP, the categorisation of institutions under a hierarchical structure has been given up. In its place, classification based on the main purpose of the institution (research or teaching) has been retained.
<b>Deadlines for Affiliation</b>	The draft suggested that, by 2032, all colleges affiliated currently must develop into autonomous degree granting colleges or merge completely with the university that they are affiliated to, or develop into a university themselves.	The final document has removed the strict deadline prescribed by the Kasturirangan Committee. It only speaks of gradually phasing out the system of "affiliated colleges".

### 6 Point Roadmap for Implementation

The MHRD has also laid down a six-point roadmap for its implementation and decided to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation status in 2030.

- The intent and the spirit of the policy must serve as the most important consideration
- Implementation in a phased manner: It is important to implement the policy initiatives in a phased manner, as each policy point has several steps, each of which requires the previous step to be implemented successfully.
- Prioritisation will be important in ensuring optimal sequencing of policy points -and that the most critical and urgent actions are taken up first - thereby enabling a strong base
- Full-fledged implementation: As the policy is interconnected and holistic, only a full-fledged implementation and not a "piece meal" one, will ensure that the desired objectives are achieved.
- Timely infusion of requisite resources - human, infrastructural, and financial - at the central and state levels will be key for the satisfactory execution of the policy. Since education is a concurrent subject, it will need careful planning, joint monitoring, and collaborative implementation between the Centre and states.
- **Careful analysis and review** of the linkages between multiple parallel implementation steps will be necessary in order to ensure effective dovetailing of all initiatives.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

### India-Saudi Arabia

India and Saudi Arabia are expected to enter into agreements on energy, defence procurement, and Civil aviation during Indian Prime Minister's visit to Saudi.

#### What is special about the meet?

- The annual international forum, popularly known as "Davos in the Desert", will be a special event.
- The forum is formally called the Future Investment Initiative and was launched in 2017.
- It seeks to elevate Saudi Arabia's international economic engagement.
- It is part of Prince Mohammed's (MbS) efforts to rapidly transform the Saudi economy under the "Vision 2030".

#### Vision 2030

- Saudi Arabia aims to diversify its economy from its historical reliance on the oil business.
- It aims to develop manufacturing and service sectors through liberalization at home, and deeper integration with the world.
- The objective is to generate significant and sustainable benefits for the young and rapidly growing Saudi population.
- Under this Vision, Saudi Arabia has selected eight countries for forging strategic partnerships. These include India, China, the UK, the United States, France, Germany, South Korea and Japan.
- India will be the fourth nation to sign agreements with Saudi Arabia for the establishment of the Strategic Partnership Council.

Why is this visit significant?

## For India

- To counter Pakistan's narrative on India's move to revoke article 370.
- To seek a greater regional role to stabilize ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia.
- Peace in the region is of utmost importance for India's expat population and energy security.
- Saudi Arabia is influential in the Islamic world. India's position in the Islamic world will improve through these relations.
- For India's long-term strategic considerations like energy security and ensuring stability in the Gulf region.
- Saudi Arabia's economic transformation opens up huge new opportunities for India's economic cooperation with the kingdom.
- Social modernization of Saudi and moderate Arabia will reinforce similar trends in the Subcontinent, because of the deep interconnection between the Gulf and the Subcontinent.

## For Saudi Arabia

- The international community has been criticizing Saudi for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi last year.
- This visit shows Saudi in a positive light and is a vote of confidence in the leadership of Crown Prince bin Salman.

How will the Strategic Partnership Council function?

- India and Saudi Arabia are set to sign an agreement for creating a bilateral strategic partnership council.
- The council will include multiple sections involving the External Affairs Ministry and NITI Aayog and counterpart organisations from Saudi Arabia.
- India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council will be chaired by Indian PM and King Salman of Saudi Arab.
- The Council would enable regular monitoring of the progress of the strategic partnership.

Which is the other key agreement?

- The signing of a pact to enable the launch of India's Rupay card in Saudi Arabia is expected.
- This would help Indian expatriates in Saudi Arabia as well as those Indians traveling to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj pilgrimage.
- After United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Saudi Arabia will be the third country in the Gulf region where India's Rupay card will be operationalized.
- India is also hoping to finalize investments from Saudi Arabia in National Infrastructure Investment Fund.

**ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES**Mountain Streams Emits Carbon Dioxide

Recently the Scientists have reported the findings of the first large-scale study of the carbon dioxide emissions from mountain streams, and their role in global carbon fluxes.

- Although, mountains cover 25% of the Earth's surface, but the streams make up just 5% of the global surface area of the fluvial networks.
- This research shows how important it is to include mountain streams in assessments of the global carbon cycle.
- So far, scientists had focused mainly on streams and rivers in low-altitude tropical and boreal regions.
- The scientists collected environmental data from the streams draining the world's main mountain ranges.
- They specifically focused on their hydrologic and geomorphologic properties as well as the soil organic carbon content within the catchments.
- They used these data to develop a model to estimate the natural CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from more than 1.8 million mountain streams worldwide.

Findings of the Study

- Researchers found that these streams have a higher average CO<sub>2</sub> emission rate per square meter than streams at lower altitudes, due to the additional turbulence caused as water flows down the mountain slopes.

- They likely account for 10% to 30% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these networks.
- The gas exchange velocities across the air-water interface in mountain streams occurs 100 times faster than previously thought.
- The findings seem to indicate that the CO<sub>2</sub> comes from geological sources, given that carbonate rock dominates geology in numerous regions around the world.
- These rocks were formed from "skeletal" components of marine microorganisms that lived millions of years ago when Earth was largely covered by oceans.

#### Importance

- It is known for a number of years that freshwater ecosystems emit roughly the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that the oceans absorb, but the studies were never done on the role of the mountain streams for the global CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes.
- The latest findings will open up new research avenues, that will help to better understand where all that CO<sub>2</sub> comes from and how a more accurate assessments of the global carbon cycle can be made.
- The findings mark an important step forward but numerous uncertainties still persist.
- It will require long-term monitoring of carbon fluxes in mountain streams to understand how climate change affects their biogeochemistry.

#### Global Carbon Cycle

- It refers to the exchanges of carbon within and between four major reservoirs: the atmosphere, the oceans, land, and fossil fuels.
- Carbon may be transferred from one reservoir to another in seconds (e.g., the fixation of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> into sugar through photosynthesis) or over millennia (e.g., the accumulation of fossil carbon (coal, oil, gas) through deposition of organic matter).

### **PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACT- AWARDS, INDICES ETC**

#### National Panchayat Awards 2019; Gram Manchitra

Union Minister for Panchayati Raj conferred the National Panchayat Awards 2019 on the 240 panchayats. He also launched Spatial Planning Application 'Gram Manchitra.'

#### National Panchayat Awards 2019 were given under the following categories:

- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP): given to best performing Panchayats (District, Intermediate and Gram) in recognition of the good work done for improving delivery of services and public goods such as Sanitation, Social Sector Performance, Disaster Management, Innovation in revenue generation, e-Governance etc.
- Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP): Given to Gram Panchayats (GPs) for their outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development by involving Gram Sabhas.
- Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Award: It is conferred to best performing Gram Panchayats (GPs) across the country which have developed their GPDPs according to the State/UT specific guidelines.
- Child-friendly Gram Panchayat Award: This award is given for best performing GPs/Village Councils (VCs) (one in each State/UT) for adopting child-friendly practices.
- e-Panchayat Puraskar: The main aim of this award is to incentivize those States/UTs, which have made dedicated efforts in adopting and implementing the e-Panchayat Applications and enabling electronic delivery of services through Panchayats & equivalent rural bodies.

#### Gram Manchitra:

- The Minister also launched a Spatial Planning Application called 'Gram Manchitra' which is a Geo Spatial based decision support system for the panchayats.
- The panchayats can utilize this App to plan, develop and monitor developmental activities on real time basis.

### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**You are braver than you think, more talented than you know, and capable of more than you imagine**

**DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**

**Qns. Criminal Justice System in India (CJSI) has been in a state of peril. Identify the major issues and suggest policy measures to reform the CJSI.**

Ans

Criminal Justice System is an instrument of social control, with an objective to prevent the occurrence of crime, punish the criminals, their rehabilitation, and ensuring justice to the victims.

The Indian Criminal Justice System faces challenges of delays and ineffectiveness in ensuring justice to the victim. The Malimath Committee (2000) report highlighted that the existing system “weighed in favour of the accused and did not adequately focus on justice to the victims of crime.”

Major issues in Indian Criminal Justice System (ICJS):

- Ineffectiveness: The Indian Penal Code (IPC), the official criminal code of India was drafted in 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was enacted in 1973.
  - Hundreds of outdated laws still exist in India which highlight the colonial legacy of ICJS, making it less effective for the contemporary needs of the society.
- Pendency of cases: According to Economic Survey 2018-19, there are about 3.5 crore cases pending in the judiciary, especially in the district and subordinate courts, which lead to actualization of the maxim “justice delayed is justice denied.”
- Huge undertrials: India has one of the world’s largest number of undertrial prisoners. According to NCRB -Prison Statistics India (2015), 67.2% of our total prison population comprises of undertrial prisoners.
- Poor investigative machinery: Corruption, huge workload of the police department, poor infrastructure of forensic labs, lack of efficient workforce, etc are few major hurdles in the speedy and transparent investigation of crimes.

Suggested policy measures:

- Reforming Witness Protection Scheme 2018: The Jessica Lal Murder case and the recent Unnao rape case highlighted the lacunae of witness protection mechanisms in India. Following suggestions should be implemented to address the drawbacks of the current Witness Protection Scheme introduced in 2018:
  - Removing the cap on the duration of protection to witnesses
  - Reforming the procedure of categorization based on threat perception which gives leverage to investigation agencies for random assessment
  - Strict penalization for violation of confidentiality of personal information should exist
- Malimath Committee (2000) recommendations should be implemented which include:
  - Rights of the Accused: The Committee suggested that a Schedule to the Code be brought out in all regional languages so that the accused knows his/her rights, as well as how to enforce them and whom to approach when there is a denial of those rights.
  - Police Investigation: The Committee suggested hiving off the investigation wing from Law and Order.
  - Court and Judges: It suggested the increase in strength of judges and courts. The judge-population ratio in India is 19.66 per million people as of 2017.
  - Vacations of Court: It recommended reducing the vacations of court on account of long pendency of cases.
- Madhav Menon Committee 2007: It favours the complete revamp of the entire criminal procedure system. It suggested setting up separate authority at the national level to deal with crimes threatening national security.
- The classification of offences must be done in a manner conducive to the management of crimes in the future. The chapters of IPC on offences against public servants, contempt of authority, public tranquility, and trespass can be redefined and narrowed.
- The construction of new offences and reworking of the existing classification of offences must be guided by the principles of criminal jurisprudence.

Conclusion: In the words of Edmund Burke “A bad law is the worst tyranny”. Thus, to uphold the true spirit of ‘Rule of Law’, there is an urgent need to reform the Criminal Justice System in India.

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQS**

1. Consider the following statements:
  1. The existing National Education Policy was framed in 2009.
  2. The draft new education policy is framed by K Kasturirangan committee.
  3. Education is a part of the State List in the 7th schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. With reference to the National Panchayat Awards 2019, consider the following statements:

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (DDUPSP) is given to best performing Panchayats in recognition of the good work done for improving delivery of services and public goods.
2. Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (NDRGGSP) is given to Gram Panchayats (GPs) for their outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development by involving Gram Sabhas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2**
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. With reference to the role of mountain streams in carbon cycle, consider the following statements:

1. Mountain streams have a lower average carbon dioxide emission rate per square metre than streams at lower altitudes.
2. Mountain streams account for 5% in the global surface area of fluvial networks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Who among the following will be India's 47th Chief Justice Of India (CJI)?

- (a) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde**
- (b) Justice Indira Banerjee
- (c) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- (d) Justice KM Joseph

5. Consider the following statement with reference to the Chief Justice of India.

- (a) In case of doubt about the fitness of the senior-most Judge to hold office of CJI consultation with other Judges under Article 124(2) to be made.
- (b) CJI holds office for 6 years or till he attains 65 years of age.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only**
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2