

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**Parliamentary Panel Report of Cancer Patients**

The Department-related Standing Committee on Science headed by Jairam Ramesh has expressed serious concern over the rising number of cancer patients in the country. The report was presented to Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu.

Findings:

- The incidence, or the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer annually, is about 16 lakh. The disease kills 8 lakh people annually. Among these are 140,000 fresh cases of breast cancer, 100,000 cervical cancer cases, and 45,000 cases of oral cancer among women.
- Among men, the top three cancers with the highest incidence are those in the oral cavity (1,38,000 cases), cancer of the pharynx (90,000) and those of the gastrointestinal tract (2,00,000).
- Mortality to incidence ratio of 0.68 in India is higher than that in very high human development index (HDI) countries (0.38) and high HDI countries (0.57).
- The “systematic failure” to address the needs of patients contributes to a 20% higher mortality among Indian cancer patients than in countries with a “high” Human Development Index.
- The incidence of cancer is very high in all North Eastern States, as it is higher than the national average for several types of cancer.

Recommendations:

- It suggested setting up of a High-Level Steering Committee to work out modalities for rolling out of a Hub and Spoke Model in a time-bound manner. This approach — already in practice in Punjab — has a network of centres, or hubs, capable of treating complex forms of cancer.
- It urged the government to expand and upgrade cancer treatment infrastructure for affordable and quality care by enlarging the network of the Mumbai-based Tata Memorial Centre (TMC).

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Suranga Bawadi**

A New York-based NGO has included Suranga Bawadi in the World Monument Watch list for 2020 along with 24 other monuments from across the world.

About:

- Suranga Bawadi is an integral part of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels built during Adil Shahi era in Karnataka.
- The Adil Shahis built the Karez underground water system in the 16th century to supply water to Vijayapura in Karnataka.
- The monument has been selected under the “Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau” by the World Monuments Fund (A New York-based NGO), which monitors restoration of ancient monuments across the globe.
- With this, the Suranga Bawadi is expected to get funds for restoration within the next two years.

Karez system:

- Karez system was built by Bahmani kings in 15th Century by the Bahmani kings in Bidar, Gulbarg and Bijapur in Karnataka and also in Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.

- Kariz is nothing but the Underground canals, built to underground water streams which are meant to provide drinking water to civilian settlements and garrison inside the Bidar fort.
- This system was necessary in a city like Bidar where the soil was rocky and drilling wells to accommodate drinking water was difficult.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY

President's Rule in Maharashtra

The state of Maharashtra has been placed under the President's Rule amid a stalemate over government formation after the assembly polls in October 2019.

- The Union Cabinet recommended the President's rule in the state after Governor of the state submitted a report regarding the same.
 - In his report, the Governor said a situation has arisen that a stable government is not possible and the government could not be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- The President signed a proclamation imposing President's rule in Maharashtra under Article 356(1). The Assembly has been kept in suspended animation.

President's Rule

Meaning

- President's Rule implies the suspension of a state government and the imposition of direct rule of the Centre.
- It is also known as 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.

Use of Article 356

- The Supreme Court in Bommai case (1994) enlisted the situations where the exercise of power under Article 356 could be proper.
- One such situation is that of 'Hung Assembly', i.e. where after general elections to the assembly, no party secures a majority.

Constitutional Provisions

- The President's Rule is imposed through the invocation of Article 356 of the Constitution by the President on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers.
- Under Article 356, President's Rule is imposed if the President, upon receipt of the report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Parliamentary Approval and Duration

- A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- The approval takes place through simple majority in either House, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- Initially valid for six months, the President's Rule can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

Consequences of President's Rule

- The state governor, on behalf of the President, carries on the state administration with the help of the chief secretary of the state or the advisors appointed by the President.
- The President can declare that the powers of the state legislature are to be exercised by the Parliament.
- The President either suspends or dissolves the state legislative assembly.

Revocation

- A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.
- This happens, in case, the leader of a party produces letters of support from a majority of members of the Assembly, and stakes his claim to form a government.

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

Mihir Shah Committee

The Union Water Resources Ministry has finalised a committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP).

About:

- The committee has 10 principal members. It will be chaired by Mihir Shah, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.
- The committee is expected to produce a report within six months.

National Water Policy (NWP), 2012:

- The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012.
- It introduced the concept of an Integrated Water Resources Management approach that took the "river basin/ sub-basin" as a unit for planning, development and management of water resources.
- It also proposed that a portion of river flows ought to be kept aside to meet ecological needs.
- That policy also stressed for a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health and hygiene to all its citizens to be made available within easy reach of households.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

Iran and Russia inaugurated a new phase of construction for a second reactor at Iran's sole nuclear power plant in Bushehr on the Gulf coast. The reactor is one of two officially under construction since 2017 at the Bushehr site.

About:

- The Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant is a nuclear power plant in Iran 17 kilometres southeast of the city of Bushehr, along the Persian Gulf.
- The plant was officially opened in a ceremony in 2011. It is the first civilian nuclear power plant built in the Middle East.
- In 2014 Iran and Russia signed an agreement to build two new nuclear reactors at the Bushehr site, with an option of six more at other sites later. Construction formally started in 2017.
- The landmark 2015 nuclear deal Iran signed with six major powers, including Russia, placed restrictions on the sort of nuclear reactor Tehran could develop and its production of nuclear fuel. However, the pact did not require Iran to halt its use of nuclear energy for power generation.

Bushehr:

- Bushehr is the capital city of Bushehr Province, Iran. it is also known as Bandar Bushehr and Bukht Ardashir. Bushehr lies in a vast plain running along the coastal region on the Persian Gulf coast of south-western Iran.

Tiger Triumph

HADR Exercise named 'TIGER TRIUMPH' is scheduled on the Eastern seaboard, Visakhapatnam from 13 to 21 November 2019.

About:

- 'Tiger Triumph' is the maiden India US joint Tri services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise.
- The Exercise is aimed to developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations.
- Indian Naval ships Jalashwa, Airavat and Sandhayak, Indian Army troops from 19 Madras and 7 Guards, and Indian Air Force MI-17 helicopters and Rapid Action Medical Team (RAMT) would be participating in the exercise. The US would be represented by US Navy Ship Germantown with troops from US Third Marine Division.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS**National Education Day**

National Education Day was celebrated on November 11.

About:

- This day is observed every year in India to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India, who served from 15 August 1947 until 2 February 1958.
- As Chairman of the Central Advisory Board of Education, he gave thrust to adult literacy, universal primary education, free and compulsory for all children up to the age of 14, girls education, and diversification of secondary education and vocational training.
- He oversaw the setting up of the Central Institute of Education, Delhi, which later became the Department of Education of the University of Delhi as "a research centre for solving new educational problems of the country"
- Under his leadership, the Ministry of Education established the first Indian Institute of Technology in 1951 and the University Grants Commission in 1953.
- He also laid emphasis on the development of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and the Faculty of Technology of the Delhi University.

Public Service Broadcasting Day

Public Service Broadcasting Day was celebrated on November 12.

About:

- The day is celebrated every year to commemorate the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.
- He addressed the displaced people, who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Examine the whole aspects before imposing the President's rule in a state with the special reference to recent Maharashtra crisis.

Ans

According to Article 356, President's rule can be imposed in a state if a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The imposition of President's rule in the Uttarakhand has brought the focus back on Article 356 of the Constitution – used and misused for decades by successive governments irrespective of their political ideology.

Breakdown of State constitutional machinery

- The expression “breakdown of constitutional machinery” has not been defined in the Constitution and can happen due to political reasons such as hung assembly, the government losing majority in the assembly, failure of any political grouping to form a government, defections and break-up of coalition or because of insurgency etc.
- Whatever may be the reason, the President has to be satisfied about breakdown of constitutional machinery in the state.

Governor's report or source otherwise

- The governor sends a report in this regard to the Centre and it's his/her report that forms the basis for the Union Cabinet's recommendation to the President for invoking Article 356 to impose President's rule.
- The provision also says that the President can take such a decision even “otherwise” (i.e. even in the absence of governor's report). But in any case, the President has to be satisfied that the constitutional machinery has broken down in the state.

Discretion of Governor

- While sending a report to the Centre, the governor is not supposed to go by the advice of the state cabinet and exercises his or her own discretion.
- On the contrary, the President has to go by the advice of the Union Cabinet. But he can seek clarifications from the council of ministers.

Imposition of President's rule and its Implication

- Once President's rule is imposed, the assembly ceases to function and the state comes under the Central government's direct control. The executive power shifts from the council of ministers to the governor.
- The powers of the state assembly become exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. Once imposed, President's rule must be approved by Parliament within a period of two months. It can't last for more than six months unless its extension is approved by Parliament.

Supreme Court ruling in SR Bommai case

- In the SR Bommai case, the Supreme Court ruled in 1994 that courts can't question the Union Cabinet's advice to the President but they can question the substance of the material behind the satisfaction of the President regarding breakdown of constitutional machinery.

Buta Singh case in Bihar (2006)

- The Supreme Court in January 2006 held that the governor's report could not be taken at face value and must be verified by the council of ministers before being used as the basis for imposing President's rule. It declared the dissolution of the Bihar assembly as null and void.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, the first civilian nuclear power plant built in the Middle East is located in which of the following country?
 - (a) Qatar
 - (b) Saudi Arabia
 - (c) U.A.E
 - (d) Iran**
2. Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated on November 12 every year to commemorate which of the following?
 - (a) The first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.**
 - (b) The experimental telecast of Doordarshan in 1959.
 - (c) The separation of television services from Radio in 1976.
 - (d) The Prasar Bharati Act received the assent of the President of India in 1990.
3. National Education Day is observed every year in India to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of who among the following?
 - (a) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**
 - (b) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
 - (c) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
 - (d) C. V. Raman
4. With reference to the Suranga Bawadi, consider the following statements:
 1. Recently UNESCO has included Suranga Bawadi in the World Monument Watch list for 2020 along with 24 other monuments from across the world.
 2. Suranga Bawadi is an integral part of the ancient Karez system of supplying water through subterranean tunnels built during Adil Shahi era in Karnataka.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
5. Mihir Shah committee, often mentioned in news is related to:
 - (a) Ensure development of water resources in the country and to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP).**
 - (b) Address issues regarding the sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
 - (c) Explore a technical solution to block videos of sexual offences on social networking sites.
 - (d) None of the above.
6. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise named 'TIGER TRIUMPH' is between India and which of the following Country?
 - (a) U.S.A**
 - (b) U.K
 - (c) France
 - (d) Germany
7. With reference to the Department-related Standing Committee on Science report on Cancer patients, consider the following statements:
 1. Mortality to incidence ratio of 0.68 in India is higher than that in very high human Development Index (HDI) countries (0.38) and high HDI countries (0.57).
 2. The incidence of cancer is very high in all Southern States.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