

NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC**Transgender Persons (Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2019**

Parliament passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019, with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill.

About:

- **Definition:** The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
- **Prohibition against discrimination:** It prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, healthcare, access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public.
- **Right of residence:** Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household.
- **Employment:** No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion.
- **Education:** Educational institutions funded or recognised by the relevant government shall provide inclusive facilities for transgender persons, without discrimination.
- **Health care:** The government must provide health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries.
- **Certificate of identity for a transgender person:** A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
- **Offences and penalties:** The Bill imposes penalties for the offences against transgender persons like bonded labour, denial of use of public places, removal from household & village and physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse.
- **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT):** The NCT chaired by Union Minister for Social Justice, will advise the central government as well as monitor the impact of policies with respect to transgender persons. It will also redress the grievances of transgender persons.

INDIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE, HISTORY**Asi-Protected Temples**

The Minister for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel informed Lok Sabha about the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected temples in India.

About:

- A total 651 Hindu temples in India are designated as Centrally Protected Monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- The largest number of Hindu temples under the ASI's protection is in Karnataka, followed by Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

Governance: The Archaeological Survey of India is an attached office of the Ministry of Culture.

- **History:** It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Functions:** It is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural monuments in the country. Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) of 1958, the ASI administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

CONSTITUTION AND POLITY**Floor Test**

The Supreme Court has ordered a floor test in the Maharashtra legislative Assembly.

About:

- A floor test is the determination on the floor of the House (in this case, the Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha) whether the Chief Minister commands the support of the majority of the MLAs.
- This can be done by means of a voice vote, or by recording the vote of each MLA in the House. This determination of majority is done in a sitting of the legislature, for which the legislature has to be convened.

- Who will order the convening of the Legislative Assembly? Under the Constitution, the Governor convenes the session of the legislature. But on multiple occasions in the past, the Supreme Court has ordered the convening of the Assembly to hold the floor test.
- The proceedings of a legislature are presided over by the Speaker.
- Often, in cases where an immediate floor test is ordered, the election of the Speaker is taken up after the conclusion of the floor test. In the absence of a Speaker, the Governor appoints one of the MLAs as the pro tem Speaker to perform the duties of the Speaker.

Parliament Disruptions

The suspension of two Congress members by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla after unruly scenes in the House has brought back focus on the conduct of MPs, and related issues.

About:

- Rule 378 of the Rules for the Conduct of Business states: The Speaker shall preserve order and shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing own decisions.
- Rule 373 says: The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any member is grossly disorderly, may direct such member to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of the day's sitting.
- According to Rule 374A: In the event of a member coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House persistently and wilfully, such member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less.

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

Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan

Union HRD Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the kartavya.ugc.ac.in portal on the occasion of 'Constitution Day' today, as a part of year long Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan being observed throughout the country.

About:

- The portal will be used primarily for holding monthly essay competitions for students as well as other activities like quizzes, debates, poster making etc pertaining to Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan.
- On the occasion of the 70th year of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, it has been decided by the Government to run a Nagrik Kartavya Palan Abhiyan from 26th November 2019 to 26th November 2020, to create mass awareness about the Fundamental Duties as enshrined in Constitution.

Abhiyanta

- During the occasion HRD minister also launched the portal 'Abhiyanta' of AICTE. The portal hosts e-contents in important emerging areas like Artificial Intelligence, Cloud computing, Big data, Augmented Reality etc.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS

Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the framework on currency swap arrangement for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries for 2019-2022. This has been done to further financial stability and economic cooperation within the SAARC region.

Key Points

The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation on 15th November, 2012.

Under the revised framework,

- The RBI will continue to offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion.
- The swap drawals can be made in US dollar, euro or Indian rupee. The framework provides certain concessions for swap drawals in Indian rupee.
- The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements.
- The framework is valid from 14th November, 2019 to 13th November, 2022.

Currency Swap Arrangement

- The word swap means exchange. A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

- Central banks and Governments engage in currency swaps with foreign counterparts to meet short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis till longer arrangements can be made

INDIAN ECONOMY

National Milk Day

National Milk Day' was celebrated on November 26 to mark the birth anniversary of Varghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution.

About:

- In 2014, all the dairy majors of the country, along with the Indian Dairy Association, resolved to observe Dr. Verghese Kurien's birthday, November 26, as National Milk Day.
- Verghese Kurien (1921 – 2012) is known as the 'Father of the White Revolution' in India.
- He was a social entrepreneur who led Operation Flood – the world's largest agricultural dairy development programme.
- It made India the world's largest milk producer from a milk-deficient nation, which doubled milk available per person and increased milk output four-fold, in 30 years.
- Kurien played a key role in formation of Amul, which broke the local trade cartel 65 years ago, paving way for the dairy co-operative sector to flourish in Gujarat. He served Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) from 1973 to 2006.

Milk Day:

- World milk day is celebrated on 1st June in entire world but in India National Milk Day is celebrated on this day.
- India is the world's largest producer of milk, contributing about 22 per cent of the world's total milk production with over 187.7 million tonnes of milk production every year. India's milk output surpasses that of all the European Union countries combined, which is followed by the US, China.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY- EVERYDAY SCIENCE, SPACE, NUCLEAR, DEFENCE ETC

Contract For The Web

Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, has announced a “Contract for the Web” — aimed at saving the future of his invention.

About:

- World Wide Web Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Tim Berners-Lee worked on it with Representatives from over 80 organisations, including governments of France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Ghana; tech majors Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc, civil society activists, and academics.
- Objective: The idea is to create a global plan of action for all stakeholders to together commit to building a “better” Web.
- Principles in the Contract: The Contract consists of following 9 principles, three each for governments, private companies, and individuals and civil society to endorse
- Governments will “Ensure everyone can connect to the Internet”, “Keep all of the Internet available, all of the time”, and “Respect and protect people’s fundamental online privacy and data rights”.
- Companies will “Make the Internet affordable and accessible to everyone”, “Respect and protect people’s privacy and personal data to build online trust”, and “Develop technologies that support the best in humanity and challenge the worst”.
- Citizens will “Be creators and collaborators on the Web”, “Build strong communities that respect civil discourse and human dignity”, and “Fight for the Web so that it “remains open and a global public resource for people everywhere”.

Implementation:

- The principles are lofty, and implementation will not be easy.
- The ‘Contract for the Web’ is not a legal document, or a United Nations document — though the organisation is in talks with the UN. It cannot currently bend governments or companies — even those that are on board — to its will.

Cartosat-3

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched Cartosat-3 and 13 commercial nanosatellites into Sun Synchronous orbit from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.

- Cartosat-3 is an earth-observation remote sensing satellite which will replace Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) series. So far, ISRO has orbited 8 Cartosats since 2005.
- Remote sensing is the science of obtaining information about objects or areas from a distance, typically from aircraft or satellites.
- The 13 commercial nanosatellites are from the USA, which is the first commercial order for New Space India Limited, the commercial arm of ISRO which was formed in March 2019.

Key Points

- Cartosat-3 is a third-generation advanced earth observation satellite carried by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C47.
- PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) is an indigenously-developed expendable launch system of the ISRO.
- Resolution: It has the 'sharpest eye' of civil remote sensing satellites in the world.
- One of Cartosat-3's cameras offers a ground resolution of 25 cm - it can pick up an object of a minimum of 25 cm size from a height of around 500 km.
- Currently, a satellite owned by US private company- WorldView-3, has the best ground resolution of 31 cm.
- Weight: At 1,625 kg, Cartosat-3 is unusually heavy and more than double the mass of the previous eight in its class.
- Orbit: PSLV will place Cartosat 3 in an orbit of 509 km.
- Inclination: It has been placed at 97.5 degrees to the equator of the earth.
- It has many new technologies such as a highly agile or flexible camera; high-speed data transmission, advanced computer system, etc.

Applications

- Data from most of the Cartosat satellites are exclusively used by the armed forces.
- However, an existing policy allows only government and government authorised agencies to access ISRO's high-resolution imageries below a resolution of 1 metre.
- Cartosat-3's optical imaging will also help to detect precise cartographic or mapping activities.
- The imageries are also used for urban and rural infrastructure planning, coastal land use and regulation, utility management such as monitoring road networks, water grids or distribution, creation of land use maps, disaster management, etc.

Cartosat Satellites

- The Cartosat satellites are earth observation satellites, used mainly for large-scale mapping of the Earth through high-resolution cameras.
- It also helps to detect changes in natural geographical or man-made features. As their cameras can 'look back and forth' in an angle to generate continuous spot images.
- The Earth-observation satellites also include the Resourcesat and RISAT series, the Oceansat series.
- The Resourcesat and RISAT series of satellites, for example, provide images and data that are needed for land and water resources applications.
- The Oceansat series and the SARAL satellite, meanwhile, produce data on the oceans.
- The satellites like INSAT 3D, INSAT-VRR or Megha Tropiques study the atmosphere.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: What are the challenges faced by the AYUSH System with respect to its integration in the mainstream medical system? Examine the potential and suggest measures to capitalise it.

Ans:

The traditional Indian system of medicine, which comprises of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH), is a perennially neglected alternative medicine sector. It played an important role against the imperialistic British reign by the cultural nationalistic reassertion but is losing its significance in modern times.

Challenges faced by the AYUSH with respect to its integration in the mainstream medical system:

- Historical: Steps were taken to uplift the sector after the Report of the Committee on Indigenous Systems of Medicine, published by the Ministry of Health in 1948 but they were scrapped later. Almost all attempts of integration of AYUSH sector has failed till now.
- Inadequacy of resources: The policy to mainstream AYUSH faces the problem of inadequate medicines, lack of health centres, capacity building, practitioners and public faith on its efficiency.
- Quantity vs Quality: Integration of AYUSH into the health-care system faces the debate of whether to provide AYUSH facilities everywhere leaving no place behind or to improve the existing facilities to full potential.
- Competition with modern medicine:
 - Dishonest practices by most of the AYUSH practitioners makes allopathy look more trustworthy.
 - Scepticism towards AYUSH treatments and procedures by people, mainly the allopathic sector.
 - Mindless cosmeticisation of AYUSH products in the name of natural-organic origin in comparison to the artificial allopathic products.
 - More focus on the export promotion of AYUSH products to gain market attention.
- Lack of dedicated efforts: There is a sharp status gap between modern medicine and AYUSH and little has been done to harmonise both the sectors. Merely expanding AYUSH's framework will only expand the present list of problems.
- Conflict of Interests: AYUSH lobby fears a loss of identity following such integration. The allopathic lobby alleges that standards of medical care would be diluted after the integration.

Measures to be taken for capitalizing AYUSH:

- Strategising for facilitating meaningful cross-learnings and collaborations between the modern and traditional systems on equal terms.
- Envisioning the integration of education, research, and practice of both systems at all levels.
- Including training of AYUSH practitioners in modern medicine through curriculum changes and vice versa.
- However, prerequisites of such integration need substantial groundwork:
- Building a strong traditional medicine research and scientific evidence corpus.
- Delineating the relative strengths, weaknesses, and role of each system.
- Negotiating the philosophical and conceptual divergences between systems.
- Standardising and regulating AYUSH practices and qualifications.
- Addressing the unique issues associated with research into AYUSH techniques.
- India can learn from the Chinese example of integrating Traditional Chinese Medicine with Western medicine.
- Recently, the National Medical Commission Bill, 2019 was passed, despite the opposition from the orthodox medical community, which shows the political will to work towards the goal.

Conclusion

- A middle path needs to be found out by an integrated framework- merging the two systems of medicine while also leaving enough scope for their autonomous growth.
- Medium and long-term plans for seamless integration should be developed expeditiously in view of the massive drive for achieving universal health care already underway in the country.
- Through this India will be able to address the subservient status of AYUSH and foster its legitimate inclusion into mainstream health care.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs

1. With reference to the “Contract for the Web”, consider the following statements:
 1. The idea is to create a global plan of action for all stakeholders to together commit to building a “better” Web.
 2. The World Wide Web Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Tim Berners-Lee worked on it with Representatives from over 80 organisations.
 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
2. With reference to the Archaeological Survey of India, consider the following statements:
 1. It was founded in 1861 by James Prinsep who also became its first Director-General.
 2. Its headquarters is located at Mumbai.
 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. What is Rule 378 of the Rules for the Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, recently seen in news?
 - (a) **The Speaker shall preserve order and shall have all powers necessary for the purpose of enforcing own decisions.**
 - (b) The Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any member is grossly disorderly, may direct such member to withdraw immediately from the House during the remainder of the day’s sitting.
 - (c) In the event of a member coming into the well of the House, such member shall, on being named by the Speaker, stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings.
 - (d) None of the above.
4. Under the Constitution, who among the following has the authority to convene the session of the state Legislative Assembly?
 - (a) **The Governor**
 - (b) The Speaker of Legislative Assembly
 - (c) The Pro tem Speaker of Legislative Assembly
 - (d) The President
5. National Milk Day' was celebrated on November 26 to mark the birth anniversary of who among the following?
 - (a) E. Sreedharan
 - (b) **Varghese Kurien**
 - (c) T. N. Seshan
 - (d) M. S. Swaminathan
6. With reference to the Nagrik Kartavya Paalan Abhiyan, consider the following statements:
 1. It is an initiative of Union Ministry of Home.
 2. It aims to create mass awareness about the Fundamental Duties as enshrined in Constitution.
 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
7. With reference to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019, consider the following statements:
 1. The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
 2. A transgender person may not need to make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity.
 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
8. With reference to Cartosat-3, consider the following statements:
 1. Cartosat-3 is an earth-observation remote sensing satellite.
 2. It has been launched with the help of GSLV(Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle).
 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