

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**Doctrine of Hot Pursuit**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has apprehended a Pakistani fishing vessel off Gujarat and seized huge cache of narcotic drugs worth Rs. 600 crore in the international market. During the hot pursuit, the crew threw bags containing suspicious material into the sea. The Coast Guard team, upon boarding the vessel, took the crew into custody and retrieved the material.

Doctrine of Hot Pursuit

- The doctrine of hot pursuit in international law recognizes the right of a State to pursue a vessel belonging to a foreign State which has violated any law within its territorial boundaries and jurisdiction.
- The doctrine vests a right to pursue the delinquent vessel outside the territorial limits into the open sea and then can be taken into custody.
- The fundamental rule of the maritime law states that all vessels have the right to navigate freely on the high seas.
- Yet, the traditional notion has recognized the doctrine of hot pursuit as an exception to the principles of freedom on the high seas.
- At a time when smuggling and piracy were rampant, this customary doctrine emerged to empower a coastal state to pursue on to the high seas a vessel that had violated its laws within its waters.
- This denied the intruding vessel the opportunity to escape punishment by claiming protection under the right of free navigation on the high seas, which had been designed to protect innocent vessels.
- Importantly, this customary doctrine did not extend to the territorial waters of a foreign state.
- Decades later, this customary doctrine was codified in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of High Seas.

Hot Pursuit as per UNCLOS

- The doctrine of maritime hot pursuit is codified in art 111 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- It recognizes that a vessel, if has committed a violation of the laws of a foreign state while in that state's sovereign or territorial waters, may be pursued onto the high seas and seized.

World Health Assembly (WHA)

Delegates at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva agreed on three resolutions to ensure that the world meets the universal health coverage (UHC) target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These resolutions include:

- The member countries will decide to take measures to implement the Declaration of Astana vowing to strengthen primary healthcare and achieve universal health coverage by 2030. The declaration was adopted at the 2018 Global Conference on Primary Health Care. This marked the 40th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata.
- To support community health worker programmes and allocate adequate resources. Such workers should be well-trained, effectively supervised and properly recognized for the work they do. At present there is a shortfall of 18 million in the number of health workers in the world and this could severely hamper the progress towards UHC.
- The member states shall push for UHC with focus on poor, vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups. This will call for the involvement of governments in coordinating the work required across all sectors to achieve universal health coverage.

Need of the hour: This might not be enough as primary health care is more than universal health care. WHA should take a human rights-based approach to health for a more just and caring world.

World Health Assembly (WHA):

- The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the forum through which the World Health Organization (WHO) is governed by its 194 member states.

- It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.
- The members of the World Health Assembly generally meet every year in May in Geneva, the location of WHO Headquarters.
- The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

What is Universal health coverage?

- Universal health coverage (UHC) is about ensuring all people and communities have access to quality health services where and when they need them, without suffering financial hardship.
- It includes the full spectrum of services needed throughout life—from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care—and is best based on a strong primary health care system.
- Achieving UHC is one of the key targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Malaria-free status

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively. While Algeria is the second African country to be officially recognized as malaria-free, after Mauritius (certified in 1973), Argentina is the second country in the Americas to be certified in 45 years, after Paraguay in June 2018.

Background: Contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, malaria remains one of the world's leading killers. It accounted for an estimated 219 million cases from 87 countries and over 400,000 related deaths in 2017. Over 60% of fatalities were among children under five years, and caused 266,000 of all malaria deaths worldwide, according to WHO's World malaria report 2018.

Vulnerability: With 92 per cent of malaria cases and 93 per cent of malaria deaths recorded from Africa, the region had a high share of the global malaria burden in 2017. Four countries in the continent accounted for nearly half of all malaria cases worldwide: Nigeria (25 per cent), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11 per cent), Mozambique (five per cent), and Uganda (four per cent).

Criteria: To receive WHO certification, a country has to prove that it has interrupted indigenous transmission of the disease for at least three consecutive years. A total of 36 countries and territories have received this WHO certification. The last case of indigenous malaria was reported from Algeria in 2013 and Argentina in 2010. The certificates will be presented on the sidelines of the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Regulatory Cadre within RBI

The RBI has decided to create a specialised supervisory and regulatory cadre within the RBI in order to strengthen the supervision and regulation of commercial banks, urban cooperative banks and NBFCs.

Need for a regulatory Cadre:

- A series of events including the IL&FS defaults, ICICI Bank loan issue, PNB fraud and the liquidity issues in the NBFC sector in the last two years have increased the concerns.
- Complexity: The present structure of supervision in RBI in the context of the growing diversity, complexities and interconnectedness within the Indian financial sector is too complex.
- There were complaints that the RBI was lax in the supervisory functions, especially in timely detection of frauds and poor governance in the banking sector.

- Increased burden: With the number of commercial bank branches being more than 1,16,000 in the country it would be impossible to cover each and every branch under the RBI's supervisory process.
- Current practice: Currently, banks follow risk-based supervision which focusses on evaluating both present and future risks and facilitates early corrective action. In comparison, supervision of NBFCs and urban cooperative banks is less stringent.

ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

A blueprint for a national security strategy

There have been several attempts at formulating a national security strategy for India. According to some accounts, the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) had formulated draft national security strategy documents on four different occasions and presented them to successive governments, but the political class wouldn't bite. There has been a lingering worry in the minds of the politicians about a potential commitment trap if a national security strategy were to be put on paper.

Key issues with present security architecture

1. National Security Council

- The National Security Council (NSC) set up in 1998 almost never meets, primarily because it is an advisory body, with the Cabinet Committee on Security being the executive body.
- If the NSC is to be made more useful, the government's allocation of business rules should be amended to give more powers to the NSC and its subordinate organisations, such as the Strategic Policy Group.

2. National Security Adviser's role –

- Second, the job of the National Security Adviser needs to be reimagined. Even though the NSA plays a vital role in national security, he has no legal powers as per the government's allocation of business rules.
- The K.C. Pant Task Force in the late 1990s had recommended the creation of an NSA with the rank of a Cabinet Minister.
- Over the years, the NSA's powers have increased, even though he is not accountable to Parliament.
- The institution of the NSA today requires more accountability and legal formality.

3. Structural Reforms –

- More national security organisations are not the answer; fundamental structural reforms in national security planning are needed.

Case Study of Defence Planning Committee (DPC) –

- Take the case of the recently constituted Defence Planning Committee (DPC) tasked to recommend policy measures to improve India's defence capability and preparedness, and national security in general.
- Not only does the DPC have too many responsibilities on its plate, it is also an advisory body.
- More worryingly, there is a feeling among the armed forces that by having the NSA chair the DPC, the government may have scuttled the demands to appoint a Chief of the Defence Staff, an issue the Hooda document highlights.

The Hooda document

- The guiding philosophy of the document is enshrined in the following sentence: "This strategy recognises the centrality of our people. We cannot achieve true security if large sections of our population are faced with discrimination, inequality, lack of opportunities, and buffeted by the risks of climate change, technology disruption, and water and energy scarcity."
- At a time when national security is referred to in strictly military terms, it is heartening to see that a strategy document defines security in an out-of-the box and inclusive manner.
- A glance at the key themes shows how well-designed the document is: "assuming our rightful place in global affairs", "achieving a secure neighbourhood", "peaceful resolution of internal conflicts", "protecting our people" and "strengthening our capabilities".

- Military jointmanship – On the issue of military jointmanship, it recommends that “the three services should undertake a comprehensive review of their current and future force structures to transform the army, navy and air force into an integrated warfighting force.
- Cyber Command – While discussing emerging national security threats, the document differs with the BJP-led government’s decision to set up a Defence Cyber Agency instead of a Cyber Command as was originally recommended.
- On Kashmir – There is a need to initiate structured programmes that bring together civil society members, family groups, educationists, religious teachers and even surrendered terrorists in an effort to roll back radicalisation.”

Conclusion: Let’s hope that this document is the beginning of a tradition in India of thinking about national security and strategy more systematically, consistently and comprehensively.

ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

White-throated Rail (or Aldabra Rail)

The white-throated rail is the only flightless bird known in the Indian Ocean area. New research has found that it had once gone extinct, but rose from the dead thanks to a rare process called “iterative evolution”.

Iterative Evolution of White-throated Rail

- It means the repeated evolution of similar or parallel structures from the same ancestor but at different times.
- There are many examples of iterative evolution in the fossil record, spanning a wide range of groups.
- The fossil record shows that sometime after the island formed 400,000 years ago, the white-throated rail – a bird native to Madagascar – colonized Aldabra.
- Since there were no natural predators, the birds soon evolved to become flightless.
- But about 136,000 years ago, sea levels rose and the island was completely submerged and wiped them out.
- Around 100,000 years ago, the island re-emerged when sea levels dropped due to an ice age.
- White-throated rails migrated there from Madagascar and once again, evolved to become flightless – a textbook example of iterative evolution and one of the strongest cases ever seen in birds.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Stick a photo of your parents at your study desk. You won't need any other motivation.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns: Briefly discuss about India's National Security Doctrine. What are the possible advantages and challenges of having a security doctrine?

Answer: Unlike many other countries, India does not publish a formally articulated National Security Strategy or National Security Doctrine or a White Paper on National Defence. In the absence of a coherent strategy, the government's responses remain ad hoc and partial.

Advantage of doctrine

- National Security Doctrine would enable government to address the crucial issue of coordination required to formulate and address new security challenges such as terror attacks that have arisen
- It helps to protect and promote national interests pertaining to security and dissuades adversaries from attempting to play mischief.
- It provides guidance to all stakeholders on policies related to national security. It helps in identification of the military, economic, diplomatic resources needed to meet the challenges.
- It offers reassurance to the citizens that the government has initiated appropriate protective measures to safeguard national security.
- It makes a State's actions predictable. This is useful for reassuring neighbours, including adversaries.

Challenges

- Reforms in the manpower policy: Major reforms in the manpower policy of the Government is required for intelligence and security agencies. It has been repeatedly recognised that these services should not be treated as 'normal' bureaucracies.
- Difficulty in coordination: The departmental interests are very strong and it becomes difficult to synchronise them. There is no common understanding among various segments of the government of what national security constitutes.
- No political consensus: There is no political consensus in the country on national security issues. For instance, there is no consensus on how to treat challenges from Pakistan and China. The government's policies on these issues have fluctuated.

Conclusion

- It is important to underline that a National Security Strategy document should be realistic and balanced. While recognizing the challenges, it should also underline the opportunities. For, a successful national security strategy can give a fillip to our national consciousness, economy and socio-economic development, thus creating a calmer environment conducive for national development.
- For an effective implementation of National Security Strategy, a wide range of governance reforms will be needed. Governance can be overhauled only through a thorough going reform of the electoral system, the criminal justice system, etc.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS BASED MCQS

1. Consider the following statements w.r.t Doctrine of Hot Pursuit
 1. IT recognizes the right of a State to pursue a vessel belonging to a foreign State which has violated any law within its territorial boundaries and jurisdiction.
 2. It is administered by the International Court of Justice.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

(a) **1 only**
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements w.r.t World Health Assembly (WHA).
 1. It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states of the WHO.
 2. It has its headquarterd in Geneva.

Which of the statements ia/are correct.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2**
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Consider the following statements w.r.t Malaria.
 1. World Health Organization (WHO) declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free.
 2. To receive WHO certification, a country has to prove that it has interrupted indigenous transmission of the disease for at least four consecutive years.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

(a) **1 only**
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. Consider the following statements w.r.t National Security Council.
 1. It is only an advisory body to the PMO on the matters of internal and external security of the country.
 2. It was established in 1998

Which of the statements ia/are correct.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2**
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Consider the following statement w.r.t the Hooda Document.
 1. It is a comprehensive national security strategy document.
 2. It recommended for a a Defence Cyber Agency.

Which of the statements ia/are correct.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2**
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
6. Consider the following statements w.r.t White-throated Rail (or Aldabra Rail).
 1. It is the only flightless bird known in the Indian Ocean area.
 2. A recent report says, it has rose from the extinct through a process called "iterative evolution"

Which of the statements ia/are correct.

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