

**NATIONAL SOCIAL ISSUES- WOMEN, POPULATION, URBANISATION, EMPOWERMENT ETC****Aarogyapath**

AarogyaPath, a CSIR National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal that aims to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies has been launched.

**About:**

- AarogyaPath (<https://www.aarogyapath.in>), a web based solution for the healthcare supply chain was launched to serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers to effectively deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.
- This national healthcare supply chain portal will remove supply chain bottlenecks during the Covid-19 pandemic. The vision of this initiative is to set up an information management and forecasting database platform at national level. It will capture demand and supply scenarios for key healthcare needs items.
- This public platform will help healthcare users like hospitals, pathology laboratories, research institutes, medical colleges and patients.

**GEOGRAPHY- PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC****Lonar Lake**

The 56,000-year-old Lonar crater sanctuary lake in Buldhana district has turned red/pink and become a hot topic of discussion among scientists.

**About:**

- Location: Lonar in Buldhana district, Maharashtra.
- Formation: Lonar Lake, also known as Lonar crater, was created by a meteor impact during the Pleistocene Epoch. A meteorite estimated to weigh two-million-tonnes slammed into the Earth, around 50,000 years creating a 1.83-km diameter crater where the lake formed.
- It is the only known hyper velocity meteorite crater in basaltic rock anywhere on Earth.
- It was notified as a National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979 by Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- It is famous as world's largest basaltic impact crater. Two other similar ones are in Dhala and Ramgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively but both are relatively unknown.

**Challenger Deep**

Astronaut and oceanographer Kathy Sullivan, who was the first American woman to walk in space in 1984, became the first woman and the fifth person in history to descend to the Challenger Deep. Sullivan is now the only human who has walked in space and reached the deepest point in the ocean.

**About:**

- The Challenger Deep is the deepest known point in the Earth's oceans, with a depth of 10,902 to 10,929 m.
- It is located in the Western Pacific Ocean, at the southern end of the Mariana Trench near the Mariana Islands group. This location is in the ocean territory of the Federated States of Micronesia.
- The depression is named after the British ship HMS Challenger, whose expedition of 1872–1876 made the first recordings of its depth.

**Earlier expeditions**

- The first dive at Challenger Deep was made in 1960 by Lieutenant Don Walsh and Swiss scientist Jacques Piccard on a submersible called 'Trieste'.
- In 2012, film director James Cameron (in his submersible 'Deepsea Challenger') became the first to complete a solo submarine dive to this spot

**CONSTITUTION AND POLITY****Reservation Not A Fundamental Right**

Right to reservation isn't a fundamental right, observed the Supreme Court while adjudicating a clutch of cases on quota for OBC candidates in Tamil Nadu's medical colleges.

**About:**

- It ruled that nobody can claim right to reservation as a fundamental right, and hence not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any constitutional right.
- The petitions said that in Tamil Nadu, there is 69 per cent reservation for OBCs, SC and ST and within this, OBC reservations are about 50 per cent. The petitions said 50 per cent of OBC candidates must get admissions in the medical colleges out of seats surrendered under the all India Quota, except for central government institutions.

- But the Supreme Court questioned how a petition under Article 32 could be maintainable when there is no fundamental right to have reservation benefits. It said that “Article 32 is available only for violation of fundamental rights, but right to reservation is not a fundamental right.”

Related Info :

- In February 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that there is no fundamental right to claim reservation in public jobs and no court can order a state government to provide for reservation to SC/STs.

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

**Sahakar Mitra Scheme**

Union Agriculture Minister launched Sahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme (SIP).

About:

- Objective: To help cooperative institutions access innovative ideas of young professionals while the interns will gain experience of working in the field to be self-reliant.
- Bodies involved: The scheme is an initiative by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), the cooperative sector development finance organization.
- Eligibility under scheme: Professional graduates in disciplines such as Agriculture and allied areas, IT etc. will be eligible for internship. Professionals who are pursuing or have completed their MBA degrees in Agri-business, Cooperation, Finance, International Trade, Forestry, Rural Development, Project Management etc. will also be eligible.
- Stipend: Each intern will get financial support over a 4 months internship period.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS- BILATERAL, GROUPINGS, ORGANISATIONS**

**Second Constitution Amendment Bill (Nepal)**

The Lower House of Nepal's Parliament unanimously voted for the Second Constitution Amendment Bill, which guarantees legal status for the new political map of the country that includes part of Indian territory in Uttarakhand, laying claim over the strategically key areas of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura along the border with India.

About:

- The bill will now be sent to the National Assembly (NA). After the National Assembly passes the bill, it will be submitted to the President for authentication, after which the bill will be incorporated in the Constitution.
- The territorial dispute of Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh stems from the fact that Nepal claims the land to the east of river Kali, which forms the country's western border.
- As per Nepal's understanding, the river originates from Limpiyadhura in the higher Himalayas, giving it access to a triangular-shaped land defined by Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh and Kalapani.
- India opposes the notion and says the origin of the river is much further down, which reduces Nepal's territorial demand.
- Nepal unveiled the new map on May 20 after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Darchula-Lipulekh link road on May 8. Nepal had earlier strongly protested when the updated Indian map published in November last year, showing the region as part of Uttarakhand.
- Nepal claims right to the region and says India was allowed to station troops there in the 1950s and that India has refused to remove forces from the region ever since.

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Fuel Pricing Mechanism**

Auto fuel prices were hiked for the sixth day in a row on June 12, 2020, since oil companies restarted revising prices after an 82-day hiatus. In the last six days, the petrol price has gone up by Rs 3.31 per litre and diesel by Rs 3.42.

About:

- The prices of petrol and diesel are determined by various factors. First the cost of crude oil, second the taxes the Centre and states impose. There's also dealer's commission and VAT that gets added before it's sold to the consumer.
- As for the everyday change in fuel prices, it's because of a dynamic pricing system that reflects fluctuations in global oil market.
- Earlier petrol prices were revised every fortnight. However, on June 16, 2017, a new scheme was implemented under which prices were to be revised every morning at 6 am.
- This shift from administrative price mechanism (APM) to dynamic pricing was done to ensure that the benefit of the smallest change in international oil prices can be put into effect by dealers (However this remains in theory only, not in practise).

### **P K Mohanty Committee**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a five-member Internal Working Group to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for 'Indian Private Sector Banks'.

#### **About:**

- RBI Central Board Director P K Mohanty will head the committee, which will submit its report by 30th September, 2020.
- Terms of Reference of the Committee are:
  - To review the extant licensing guidelines and regulations relating to ownership and control in Indian private sector banks and suggest appropriate norms;
  - To examine and review the eligibility criteria for individuals/ entities to apply for banking license;
  - To study the current regulations on holding of financial subsidiaries through non-operative financial holding company (NOFHC) and suggest the manner of migrating all banks to a uniform regulation in the matter; and
  - To examine the norms for promoter shareholding at the initial/licensing stage and subsequently, along with the timelines for dilution of the shareholding.

### **Governance In Commercial Banks In India**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a Discussion Paper on 'Governance in Commercial Banks in India' for public comments.

#### **About:**

The objective of the discussion paper is to align the current regulatory framework with global best practices while being mindful of the context of domestic financial system.

- Based on the feedback, fresh guidelines will be issued. The new norms will come into effect within six months after being placed the RBI's website or April 1, 2021, whichever is later.
- The norms will be applicable to private, foreign and public sector banks.

#### **Some of the major highlights of the paper are as follows:**

- Board members should not be a member of any other bank's board or the RBI and should not be either a Member of Parliament or State Legislature or Municipality or other local bodies.
- Board of directors of a bank should not be less than six and not more than 15, with a majority being independent directors.
- The board shall meet at least six times a year and at least once every 60 days.
- A director on the board of an entity other than a bank may be considered for appointment as director on a bank's board, if the person is not an owner of an NBFC or a full-time employee and that the NBFC does not enjoy a financial accommodation from the bank.
- Appointment, re-appointment and termination of wholtime directors (WTDs) and chief executive officers (CEOs) should be with the previous approval of RBI.
- The upper age limit for CEO and WTDs of banks is suggested at 70 years. Banks will be free to set a lower age for such appointments.

## ENVIRONMENT- CONSERVATION, BIO-DIVERSITY AND ISSUES

### **Indian Gaur**

The first population estimation exercise of the Indian gaur carried out in the Nilgiris Forest Division in recent years, which was conducted in February of this year, has revealed that more than an estimated 2,000 Indian gaurs inhabit the entire division.

#### **About:**

- Common Name: Indian Gaur; Gaur.
- Scientific Name: Bos Gaurus.
- Physical Characteristics: It is one of the largest extant bovines. It is one of the largest species among the wild cattle, reaching a shoulder height of up to 220 cm.
- Habitat: Gaurs are found on the forested hills and grassy areas of south to south east Asia.
- Distribution:
  - They are found in India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.
  - The Western Ghats in southern India constitute one of the most extensive extant strongholds of gaur, in particular in the Wayanad – Nagarhole – Mudumalai – Bandipur complex.
- The gaur is the State Animal of Goa and Bihar.
- Status:
  - It is listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature(IUCN) Red List.

- The Indian Government has included it in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- It is listed in CITES Appendix I.

### **Permafrost**

The principal reason that led to the recent 20,000-tonne oil leak at Norilsk at an Arctic region power plant in Russia is the sinking of ground surface due to permafrost thaw. The plant is built entirely on permafrost, whose weakening over the years due to climate change caused the pillars supporting a fuel tank at the plant to sink.

#### **Permafrost:**

- Criteria: Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen—32°F (0°C) or colder—for at least two years straight. It is defined solely based on temperature and duration.
- Global Distribution: These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes—near the North and South Poles.
- Coverage: Permafrost covers large regions of the Earth. Almost a quarter of the land area in the Northern Hemisphere has permafrost underneath.

#### **Composition:**

- Permafrost is made of a combination of soil, rocks and sand that are held together by ice. The soil and ice in permafrost stay frozen all year long.
- Near the surface, permafrost soils also contain large quantities of organic carbon—a material leftover from dead plants that couldn't decompose, or rot away, due to the cold. Lower permafrost layers contain soils made mostly of minerals.
- A layer of soil on top of permafrost does not stay frozen all year. This layer, called the active layer, thaws during the warm summer months and freezes again in the fall.

#### **Impact of Climate Change on Permafrost:**

- As Earth's climate warms, the permafrost is thawing. That means the ice inside the permafrost melts, leaving behind water and soil. Thawing permafrost can have dramatic impacts on our planet.
- Many northern villages are built on permafrost. Thawing permafrost can destroy houses, roads and other infrastructure.
- When permafrost is frozen, plant material in the soil—called organic carbon—can't decompose, or rot away. As permafrost thaws, microbes begin decomposing this material which releases greenhouse gases the atmosphere.
- When permafrost thaws, so do ancient bacteria and viruses in the ice and soil. These newly-unfrozen microbes could make humans and animals very sick.

## **INTERNAL SECURITY, DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

### **IFLOWS-Mumbai**

Integrated Flood Warning System - IFLOWS was inaugurated in Mumbai by Union Minister for Earth Sciences and Maharashtra Chief Minister.

#### **About:**

- The IFLOWS-Mumbai has been developed by the Union Ministry for Earth Sciences on the request of Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM).
- IFLOWS-Mumbai is a state of art Integrated Flood Warning system for Mumbai. It is expected to enhance Mumbai's resilience by providing early warning for flooding specially during high rainfall events and cyclones.
- I-FLOWS comprises seven modules, namely Data Assimilation, Flood, Inundation, Vulnerability, Risk, Dissemination Module and Decision Support System.
- The system has provisions to capture the urban drainage within the city and predict the areas of flooding, which will be incorporated in the final system

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

### **Captain Arjun**

Railway Protection Force, Pune, under the Central Railways, has launched a Robotic 'CAPTAIN ARJUN' (Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice) to intensify the screening and surveillance.

#### **About:**

- This Robot is launched to screen passengers while they board trains and keep a watch on anti-social elements. It can be deployed for multiple uses and it is an effective element in station access control and will augment the station security plan.
- It is equipped with a motion sensor, one PTZ camera and one Dome Camera. The Cameras use Artificial Intelligence algorithms to track suspicious and antisocial activity.

- It also has an inbuilt siren, motion activated spotlight, with an in-built internal storage for recording in case there is a network failure. It does thermal screening and records the temperature in a digital display panel.

### **Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE) Mission**

Japan and India will be launching a joint lunar mission called the Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE).

#### **About:**

- The mission aims to put a lander and rover on Moon's surface. The mission will be launched after 2023.
- Japanese space agency JAXA would be building the overall landing module and the rover, while ISRO would develop the lander system.
- The mission will be launched from Japan, and the designated launch vehicle is the H3 rocket, manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.
- Observational data suggests the existence of water in the polar regions of Moon. The mission intends to obtain data on the quantity and forms of water resources present, in order to determine the feasibility of utilizing such resources for sustainable space exploration activities in the future.

### **PRELIMS SPECIFIC FACTS- INDICES, DAYS, EVENTS, AWARDS ETC**

### **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is being observed on June 15, 2020 with the theme "Safeguard older persons during COVID-19 and beyond."

#### **About:**

- Date of observance: 15th of June every year.
- Objective of the day: To voice opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on elderly people.
- History: It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011 following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), who first established the commemoration in 2006.

#### **The Impact of COVID-19 on older persons**

- An estimated 66% of people aged 70 and over have at least one underlying condition, placing them at increased risk of severe impact from COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 pandemic may significantly lower older persons' incomes and living standards. Already, less than 20% of older persons of retirement age receiving a pension.

**Related Info :** In addition to the WEAAD, the UN also observes an International Day of Older Persons on October 1 every year to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives.

### **World Blood Donor Day**

The year, World Blood Donor Day will once again be celebrated around the world on 14 June under the theme 'Safe blood saves lives'.

#### **About:**

- Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day (WBDD).
- The event, established in 2004, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday anniversary of Karl Landsteiner (1868 – 1943).
- He was an Austrian scientist who received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1930 for his discovery of the ABO blood group system.
- He has been described as the father of transfusion medicine.

### **ODISHA DEVELOPMENT**

### **Translocation Of Tigers**

The Odisha forest department has asked Madhya Pradesh to take back the translocated tigress 'Sundari', after she killed two people in the Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR).

#### **About:**

- Sundari was shifted from MP's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) to Satkosia Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha's Angul district in 2018.
- She had been moved to Odisha a week after translocation of MB2 - a male tiger from Kanha. This pair was part of the country's first inter-state tiger translocation project. MB2 was killed by poachers in late 2018.
- NTCA had initially okayed the translocation of six tigers from MP to Odisha, but only two were shifted. The Rs 26 crore worth project – shared between Centre and state governments – has now been suspended following furious protests by Odisha villagers.

### **DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE**



**Q. The Jurisdiction of the Supreme court under Article 142 supersedes the executive and the legislature. Discuss.**

**Answer:**

Article 142 of Constitution of India deals with Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court. It states that the Apex Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing “complete justice” in any case pending before it.

Such orders of the Supreme Court are enforceable throughout the territory of India as prescribed by any law made by Parliament or order of the President of India.

Article 142 enables superseding the executive and the legislative

- From Article 142, the Supreme Court derives overarching powers to perform the functions of Executive and legislative in order to bring about complete justice.
- In this pursuit, Article 142 is supplemented by the Articles 32 (Right to constitutional remedies), Article 141 (The law declared by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all courts within the territory of India) and Article 136 (Special Leave petition).
- This is often termed as judicial activism. To do “complete justice” it has often overridden the laws made by Parliament such as in the following cases.
  - Union Carbide Case: In 1989, the Supreme Court invoked Article 142 to provide relief awarding the compensation of to victims affected in the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
  - Coal Block Allocation Case: In 2014, the Supreme Court used the said provision of the constitution to cancel the allocation of coal blocks granted from 1993 onwards who were guilty of wrongdoing and imposed a penalty on coal mined illegally.
  - Ban on liquor sale on highways case: In 2016, under Article 142 the apex court banned the sale of alcohol within a stipulated distance of 500 metres from the outer edge of the highway. Such a decision was taken to avoid accidents due to drink and drive.

Merits of Article 142

- Judiciary has used the powers under 142 for upholding citizens’ rights and implementing constitutional principles when the executive and legislature fails to do so.
- As the guardian of the constitution Article 142 provides its power to fill the statutory vacuum.
- It also sets out a system of check and balance and controls to the other branches of the government. For example:
  - In Vishakha v State of Rajasthan case, Supreme Court laid down the guidelines to protect a woman from sexual harassment at its workplace
  - Bandhua Mukti Morcha Case the Hon’ble Court gave its landmark judgment on bonded labour system of India
  - In Olga Tellis Case where Right to livelihood was declared part and parcel of the right to life.

Demerits Of Article 142

- Unaccountability: One of the demerits of the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142, is that unlike the executive and legislature, it cannot be held accountable for its decisions.
  - For example in one of the verdicts, the apex court banned e-rickshaws in certain parts of delhi without making provisions for alternative employment. However, it cannot be held accountable for violating the fundamental right to to carry on any occupation or trade.
  - In the coal block allocation case, The Supreme Court did not hear individuals and their particular facts, but only their associations were heard.
- Judicial under-reach: The problem of judicial under-reach arises where courts shirk its responsibilities, despite having the jurisdiction, resulting in injustice.
  - Like majority of the petitions/appeals filed before the Supreme Court under Article 136 of the Constitution of India are dismissed, but its judges are not liable to explain the reasons for such dismissal.
- Repeated interventions of courts can diminish the faith of the people in the integrity, quality, and efficiency of the government.

Conclusion

- Thus, there is a need to strike a balance between three pillars of government without encroaching on each other’s area. The powers under Article 142 being curative in nature cannot be construed as powers which authorise the court to assume the role of executive or legislature.
- In the Bar association of Supreme court vs. The Union of India Case Supreme Court itself held that the power to do complete justice under Article 142 is in a way, corrective power, which gives preference to equity over law but it cannot be used to violate substantial rights.