

GOVERNANCE**India in BRICS Ministers' Meeting**

Recently, the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Virtual Meeting was held under the Russian Presidency.

- It aimed to discuss various issues including approaches to creating a safe work culture in BRICS countries.

Key Points**Emphasis on Health of Workers:**

- It was highlighted that health, welfare and improved working conditions are essential for the well-being of the workers. A healthy workforce in the country would be more productive and contribute to economic growth.
- The aspects of occupational safety and health measures to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 have also acquired significance.

India's Stand:

- India called for suitable global action especially by BRICS towards effecting a balance between labour and employer which will generate growth and create more jobs and greater labour welfare.
- India also highlighted the importance of digitisation and technological advancements like artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics in reshaping lives and work, with a direct or indirect effect on the labour market.
- Digitisation also offers the opportunity for governments, individuals and businesses to cope with the changing scenarios after the pandemic.
- India underscored that the digital economy is changing the world of work, hence regular studies by the BRICS Network Research Institutes will facilitate a better understanding of the aspects of future of work and supplement policymaking.
- India is committed to eradicate poverty and promote prosperity in a changing world and hence adopted a multi-dimensional strategy to eliminate poverty by covering most of the basic services and fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals of No Poverty (SDG-1).

Initiatives Highlighted by India

- Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code Bill, 2020:
- Provides a dynamic and effective framework of occupational safety and health at the workplace and covers legal provisions of all sectors.
- Envisages safety standards for different sectors, focusing on the health and working condition of workers, hours of work, leaves, etc.

Social Security Code Bill, 2020:

- Universalises social security coverage to those working in the unorganised sector, such as migrant workers, gig workers and platform workers.
- Recognises emerging forms of work by defining terms like an aggregator, gig worker and platform worker, and extends social protection to such workers through a separate Social Security Fund wherein the contribution from aggregators would be deposited.
- Provisions of social security will also be extended to agricultural workers.

Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2020:

- Sets up Grievance Redressal Committees for resolution of disputes arising out of employees' grievances.
- Also sets up a reskilling fund to help skill retrenched workers.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:

- Provides direct income support to farmers for easing their liquidity needs to facilitate timely access to inputs.
- Aiding modernisation and makes farmers competitive.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan:

- Protects the economy from the adverse impact of the Covid-19 crisis.
- Measures include opening a credit line for micro, small and medium enterprises to meet their operational expenses, subsidising the social security contributions of workers, extending unemployment benefit to workers, financial assistance to construction workers, collateral-free working capital loan to approximately 5 million street vendors, etc.
- Other Related Schemes:
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

- National Livelihood Mission.

Way Forward

- All countries need to work together in finding feasible and sustainable solutions to the issues and challenges faced by the future of the labour force in the digital economy so that everyone can get the flexible employment opportunities without compromising the fundamental rights.

Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

A seventh tranche of the gold bond scheme - in which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues bonds linked to the market price of gold on behalf of the government - will be available for investment on five days starting 12th October, 2020.

Key Points

- **Launch:** The Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings - used for the purchase of gold - into financial savings.
- **Issuance:** The Gold Bonds are issued as Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006.
- These are issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.
- Bonds are sold through Commercial banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices (as may be notified) and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange, either directly or through agents.
- **Eligibility:** The bonds are restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

Features:

- **Issue Price:** The price of the gold bonds is calculated based on the spot price of gold as provided by the Mumbai-based India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA).
- For the seventh tranche, a price of Rs. 5,051 per unit is applicable. Those purchasing the bonds through an online mode - using a digital mode of payment - get a discount of Rs. 50 on each unit.
- **Investment Limit:** Gold bonds can be purchased in the multiples of one unit, up to certain thresholds for different investors.
- The upper limit for retail (individual) investors and HUFs is 4 kilograms (4,000 units) each per financial year. For trusts and similar entities, an upper limit of 20 kilograms per financial year is applicable.
- Minimum permissible investment is 1 gram of gold.
- **Term:** The gold bonds come with a maturity period of eight years, with an option to exit the investment after the first five years.
- **Interest Rate:** A fixed rate of 2.5% per annum is applicable on the scheme, payable semi-annually.
- The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961.

Benefit:

- Bonds can be used as collateral for loans.
- The capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted.
- Redemption is the act of an issuer repurchasing a bond at or before maturity.
- Capital gain is the profit earned on the sale of an asset like stocks, bonds or real estate. It results in when the selling price of an asset exceeds its purchase price.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**DST-IBM Collaboration for STEM**

Recently, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) India have announced collaborations to scale up the initiatives, Vigyan Jyoti and Engage with Science.

- Both DST and IBM India aim to create a robust STEM ecosystem that nurtures critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and next-generation innovators.
- DST and IBM India will work together to further integrate and develop science and technology in the education ecosystem with short term courses, workshops, mentoring, and online science content communication for teachers and students in India.

Key Points**Vigyan Jyoti:**

- It was launched by the DST in 2019.

Aims:

- To promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning among girl students and build confidence and excitement towards these streams.
- STEM is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in 4 specific disciplines, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.
- To create a level-playing field for meritorious girls from grades 9 to 12, especially from the top colleges in the areas where girls are hugely underrepresented.
- To solve the multidimensional problems associated with the meagre representation of women.
- The programme provides a scholarship, visit to nearby scientific institutions, science camps, lecturers from eminent women scientists, and career counselling.
- It is currently implemented by Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in 58 districts, with the participation of about 2900 students.
- JNV is a system of central schools for talented students predominantly from rural areas in India.
- They are run by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi, an autonomous organization under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.

Engage with Science:

- Engage with Science by Vigyan Prasar is another initiative to build interest and create a community of practice with students, teachers, and scientists connecting the high school students to the higher education institutions.
- Vigyan Prasar is an autonomous body under the DST to help India's science popularisation agenda through several strategic initiatives.
- This is an interactive platform that will be built on the Over-The-Top (OTT) platform to encourage and inspire high school students to pursue science and technology for a career.
- An OTT media service is any online content provider that offers streaming media as a standalone product.
- The term is commonly applied to video-on-demand platforms, but also refers to audio streaming, messaging services, or internet-based voice calling solutions.
- It needs access to the internet and smartphones, tablets, laptop/computers.

Benefits of the Collaboration:

- It will make these programmes reach the students and teachers in interactive ways on a large scale which will make learning relevant and foster scientific spirit among the country's youth.
- Existing opportunities for meritorious girls to nurture their interest in STEM will be expanded through the learning platforms.
- The engagement with science platforms will make students interact, participate and get involved with the sampling and active consumption of science and technology content, including Cloud, Big Data, etc. through the usage of digital tools.
- This will strengthen the DST's initiative to increase the number of women in technology fields.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Measures to Boost Consumption Demand and Capex**

Recently, the government has announced a twin set of measures to boost consumption demand and capital expenditure (Capex), which are estimated to result in quick spending of more than Rs. 1 lakh crore by March 2021.

- These measures are the Leave Travel Concession (LTC) voucher scheme and a festival advance scheme. Also, measures have been announced to step up Capex by the Centre and the states.

Key Points**Aim:**

- Supply constraints in the economy have eased over recent months, but consumer demand remained affected and these measures aim at advancing consumer spending and Capex.
- Capex steps are "directly linked to an increase in economic output given their high multiplier effect".
- The earlier announced Atmanirbhar Bharat package addressed the requirement of essential goods for needy sections of the society and now these measures aim at promoting consumption of high-value items by those employees whose salaries and jobs have not been affected by Covid-19 pandemic.

- With the participation of the private sector, these will stimulate growth in the economy by advancing the consumption of non-essential, relatively high-value goods and services in the economy.

Leave Travel Concession Voucher Scheme:**Leave Travel Concession:**

- Central government employees get LTC in a block of four years, one each to a destination of choice and home town or two for home town.
- Under this, the air or rail fare is reimbursed as per pay scale/entitlement. Also, a leave encashment of ten days (pay+dearness allowance) is paid.
- However, employees will not be able to avail the LTC in the 2018-21 year block due to the ongoing pandemic and this is where the LTC will benefit government employees.
- In lieu of one LTC during 2018-21, employees will receive cash payment. There will be full payment on leave encashment and fare will be paid as per three slabs depending upon the class of entitlement. Further, there will be no tax on fare payment.
- An employee opting for this scheme will have to buy goods and services worth three times the fare and one time leave encashment, and do so before 31st March 2021.
- The money is to be spent on goods attracting Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 12% or more and only digital payments will be allowed. Also, employees will have to provide the GST invoice.
- If the amount is not spent then the employee will have to pay tax as per the marginal tax rate on the LTC component.
- The same benefits will be available to private-sector employees if the employers decide to offer the scheme to their employees and they decide to avail it.

Benefits to Economy:

- The government expects a demand generation of Rs. 28,000 crore (Rs. 19,000 crore from central government employees and the rest from states) in the economy.
- While GST collections have been severely impacted in the first half of the fiscal due to Covid-19 pandemic, a consumption boost will lift GST collections in the second half of the year as the scheme calls for expenditure to be done till 31st March 2021.
- If private-sector employees also participate, it may lead to a significant jump in overall consumption and rise in GST collections.
- Since most employees have not been able to travel after the pandemic, the shifting of the LTC benefit is expected to generate demand elsewhere.

Festival Advance:

- Festival advance, which was abolished in line with recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, has been restored for one time till 31st March 2021.
- All central government employees will get an interest-free advance of Rs. 10,000 that will be recovered in 10 instalments. It will be given in the form of a pre-loaded RuPay card of the advance value.
- The government expects to disburse Rs. 4,000 crore under the scheme by 31st March 2021 and if all states provide similar advances, another Rs. 8,000 crore is likely to be disbursed.
- This is expected to generate consumer demand ahead of festivals like Diwali.

Other Measures to Boost Capital Expenditure:

- An additional budget of Rs 25,000 crore for Capex on roads, defence infrastructure, water supply, urban development, and domestically produced capital equipment. This is expected to come through re-allocation of resources.
- Special assistance will be provided to states in the form of interest-free 50-year loans of Rs. 12,000 crore, which can be used only for Capex purposes, with certain conditions.

Concerns:

- Too Many Restrictions: Provisions like buying goods and services worth three times the fare, only in goods attracting GST of 12% or more through digital mode before 31st March etc. end the freedom of the consumer in decision making.
- Smaller Size: Capex amounts are too small to have any meaningful impact on economic growth.
- With the previous rounds of budgetary fiscal support of around 1% of GDP, current measures take total fiscal support to about 1.2% of GDP, which is small compared with the size of the growth hit and reflects India's weak fiscal starting position.

- Limited Impact: As the measures are aimed at encouraging spending for government employees rather than private/vulnerable section (where job losses/income losses have been significant), the overall impact will be limited.
- On Tourism: LTC Voucher Scheme may impact the travel and tourism industry negatively if consumers choose to spend through the scheme. Demand in travel and tourism has already fallen significantly after the Covid-19 induced lockdowns and closed borders.

Way Forward

- The government seeks to coincide the schemes with the upcoming festive period to spur overall consumption and is also spending less to not to put additional burden on the exchequer, in the midst of a notable shortfall in tax and divestment revenues.
- The strategic intent behind the schemes is to direct spending towards items for which demand had slumped during the period of lockdowns but this may defeat the larger purpose of reviving demand. Consumption-led growth can arguably lead to a slackening of future growth if it entails growing imbalances due to limits to capacity creation, and rising debt burdens, particularly for households.

ENVIRONMENT AND DIVERSITY**The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019 Report:UNDRR**

- In a new report “The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019”, the United Nations pointed out that climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years.
- The report is published by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The report did not touch on biological hazards and disease-related disasters like the coronavirus pandemic.
- International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed on 13th October every year.

Key Points**Findings:**

- 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some USD 2.97 trillion.
- The figure is far more than the 4,212 major natural disasters recorded between 1980 and 1999.
- 6,681 climate-linked disasters had been recorded in the period 2000-19, up from 3,656 during the previous 20-year-period.
- Climate-related disasters include disasters categorized as meteorological, climatological, or hydrological.
- There had also been an increase in geophysical events like earthquakes and tsunamis that are not related to climate but are particularly deadly.
- Major floods had more than doubled to 3,254, there had been 2,034 major storms up from 1,457 in 20 years.
- India is the 2nd most affected country by floods after China.
- Extreme heat is proving especially deadly. Heatwaves of 2015 in India resulted in 2,248 deaths.
- The deadliest single disaster in the past 20 years was the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, with 2,26,400 deaths, followed by the Haiti earthquake in 2010, which claimed some 2,22,000 lives.
- The data showed that Asia has suffered the highest number of disasters in the past 20 years with 3,068 such events, followed by the Americas with 1,756 and Africa with 1,192.
- In terms of affected countries, China topped the list with 577 events followed by the United States with 467 and India (321 events).

Concern:

- Governments are not doing enough to prevent climate hazards.
- A temperature increase of 3°C of the global climate is estimated to increase the frequency of potentially high impact natural hazard events across the world. This could render current national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation obsolete in many countries.
- Shifting rainfall patterns and greater variability in precipitation poses a risk to the 70% of global agriculture that is rain-fed and the 1.3 billion people dependent on degrading agricultural land.

Recommendations:

- The concentrated impact due to a single disaster in some countries provides an opportunity for a more focused approach on disaster risk reduction. However, Covid-19 demonstrates the need for a systemic, multi hazard approach in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world.

- There is a requirement for strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk with clear vision, competence, plans, guidelines, funding and coordination across sectors and in a manner, which takes account of the increasingly systemic nature of disaster risk.
- Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures needs to be stepped up to create disaster resilient societies.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

- The UNDRR was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It is mandated to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among the disaster reduction activities.
- It is an organisational unit of the UN Secretariat and is led by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG).
- UNDRR's Strategic Framework 2016-2021 has a vision to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses for a sustainable future with the mandate to act as the custodian of the Sendai Framework (India is a signatory).

Indian Scenario

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
- The NDMA was formally constituted in 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson.
- National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) defines the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders including Central Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, UT Administrations, District Authorities and local self Governments.
- Primary responsibility of disaster management rests with the States.
- The Central Government conducts regular mock drill, community training and awareness programmes to prepare the civilian populations for disasters.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Protests to Coup: Kyrgyzstan

Protesters in Kyrgyzstan have captured key government buildings, including the Parliament house and the presidential office and the situation is like a coup.

Key Points

- **Background:** Kyrgyzstan, often referred to as Central Asia's only democracy, had seen violent anti-government protests in the past.
- In 2005 and 2010, sitting presidents were forced out of office in popular protests- 'Tulip' and 'Melon' revolutions.
- The current protests began after early results of the parliamentary election were announced.
- Political parties in Kyrgyzstan should win at least 7% of the popular vote to enter Parliament.
- The results showed that only four parties managed to cross the threshold and of which, three were pro-government parties.
- The only one opposition party could cross the threshold.

Reason for the protest:

- Even before the election, political fault lines were sharpening in Kyrgyzstan.
- The country's main political party, the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan (SDPK), stayed out of the election due to intra-party rift and split.
- Several political leaders were detained and elections were perceived as rigged.
- Consequently, after elections, protestors formed a Coordination Council to lead the "revolution". The country's Election Commission annulled the results, but the protestors continued.
- Official View: Opposition's intention is to instigate a political coup.
- The Opposition's View: The elections were rigged which made people protest against the establishment.

Kyrgyzstan's importance:



- It has been key to the strategic plans of both Russia and China.
- Russia considers the region as its backyard and plays hard politics to retain its influence.
- Kyrgyzstan is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO).
- CSTO is a Russia-led military alliance of six former Soviet states that was created in 2002.
- Its aim is to ensure the collective defence of any member that faces external aggression.
- **Members of CSTO:** Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan
- While Russia has cultivated strong ties with all political factions in Kyrgyzstan, radical political changes could throw up opportunities for its rivals.
- Belarus, another country in Russia's backyard with a pro-Russia President, is already witnessing political turmoil after August's Presidential election.
- In the South Caucasus, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, both former Soviet Republics, over Nagorno-Karabakh, risks dragging Russia into a conflict that Russia doesn't want.
- All three combined, Russia's attempts to build stronger political and economic integration with the former Soviet region are suddenly facing critical challenges.
- **China-** This landlocked Central Asian country that shares a long border with China.
- It is located at the centre of Eurasia, is a vital link in its Belt and Road Initiative.
- In 2019, Chinese President visited Bishkek (capital)- shows close link with the current establishment.
- China has built road and rail networks with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
- **USA:** During the early stages of the Afghan war, the USA had used Kyrgyzstan for refuelling and other logistical purposes.
- The USA base was shut down in 2014 by Parliament.
- A regime change can be favourable for the USA.

India-Kyrgyzstan

- India has enjoyed strong bilateral ties with Kyrgyzstan since 1991.
- India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with Kyrgyzstan in 1992.
- Since 1992, the two countries have many agreements, including on Culture, Trade and Economic Cooperation, Civil Aviation, Investment Promotion and Protection, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Consular Convention etc.
- In 2011, the joint 'Khanjar' series of exercises was started.
- Indian diaspora in Kyrgyzstan- about 9,000 Indian students are studying medicine in various medical institutions in the country. Also, there are many businessmen living in Kyrgyzstan who are involved in trade and several other services there.

- Strategic: The Kyrgyz leaderships have been largely supportive of India's stand on Kashmir.
- They also support India's bid for a permanent seat at the UNSC.
- Departure from a Democratic Regime may bring uncertainty for India's interests.

Way Forward

- Due to the strategic importance of the country, other nations with interest in the new regime may interfere. This must not form another zone of cold war. The process must be Kyrgyz-led and Kyrgyz-owned for long-term stability.
- India can have a word in order to support the democratic and peaceful political system in Kyrgyzstan.
- Also, India can explore the communication with the potential political factions in Kyrgyzstan that can form the government in Kyrgyzstan.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Mount Kilimanjaro

Recently, a fire that has broken out on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.

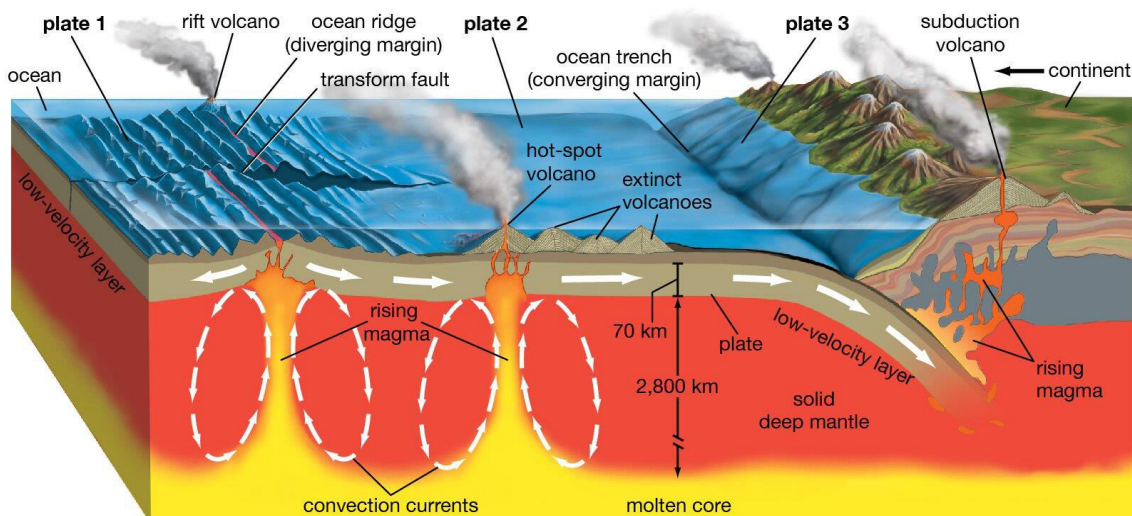
- The cause of the fire is not clear but strong winds and dry weather have caused it to spread fast.

Key Points

- Located in Tanzania, Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's tallest mountain at about 5,895 meters.
- It is also the largest free-standing mountain rise in the world, meaning it is not part of a mountain range.
- Kilimanjaro is a stratovolcano or composite volcano (a term for a very large volcano made of layers of ash, lava, and rock) and is made up of three cones: Kibo, Mawenzi, and Shira.
- Kibo is the summit of the mountain and the tallest of the three volcanic formations. While Mawenzi and Shira are extinct, Kibo is dormant and could possibly erupt again.
- Scientists estimate that the last time it erupted was 3,60,000 years ago.
- The mountain is also known for its snow-capped peak which might disappear within the next 20 years or so as per the warnings by the scientists.
- In 1973, the mountain and its six surrounding forest corridors were named Kilimanjaro National Park in order to protect its unique environment.
- The park was named a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage site in 1987.
- It is a popular tourist destination and tens of thousands of people climb it every year.

Volcano

- A volcano is an opening on the surface of a planet which allows material warmer than its surroundings to escape from its interior.
- When this material escapes, it causes an eruption. An eruption can be explosive, sending material high into the sky. Or it can be calmer, with gentle flows of material.
- On Earth, the erupted material can be liquid rock ("lava" when it's on the surface and "magma" when it's underground), ash, cinders, and/or gas.



DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. The frequent promulgation of ordinances is an assault on the democratic structure of the constitution. Critically analyse.(150 words)

Ans.

Article 123 of the Constitution grants the President certain law-making powers to promulgate ordinances during the recess of Parliament. These ordinances have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament but are in the nature of temporary laws.

- Likewise, the Governor of a state can issue ordinances under Article 213 of the Constitution, when the state legislative assembly (or either of the two Houses in states with bicameral legislatures) is not in session.
- The ordinance making power is the most important legislative power of the President and the Governor. It has been vested in them to deal with unforeseen or urgent situations.

Need for the promulgation of ordinances

- Immediate action requirement: Temporary law making power has been conferred on the President and the Governor under the Constitution of India to meet the unforeseen and extraordinary situations which require immediate action to which the ordinary law prevailing at that time cannot handle.
- Legislature not in session: An ordinance can be issued only when both Houses of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, are not in session. But it is not possible to pass a law immediately to grip the suddenly arisen circumstances due to procedural formalities, President/Governor may prorogue the Legislature and issue an ordinance.

Issues with frequent promulgation of ordinances

- Deliberate bypassing of the legislature: At times there are instances that legislature is being deliberately bypassed to avoid debate and deliberations on contentious legislative proposals. This is against the ethos and spirit of democracy. Repromulgation of ordinances: As observed by the Supreme Court, re-promulgation of ordinances is a “fraud” on the Constitution and a subversion of democratic legislative processes, especially when the government persistently avoids placing the ordinances before the legislature.
- For example, a series of ordinances were issued by the Bihar Governor between 1989 and 1992 regarding the taking over of private Sanskrit schools by the state.
- Infringement of principle of separation of powers: The power of the executive to issue ordinances goes against the principle of separation of powers as lawmaking is the domain of legislature.
- The satisfaction of the President: Ordinance can be promulgated only when the President is satisfied that circumstances exist for the same thus providing the scope of misuse of the power.
- When ordinances are frequently issued and re-issued, it violates the spirit of the Constitution and result in an ‘ordinance raj’. In D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar 1987, the Supreme Court strongly condemned this practice and called it a constitutional fraud.
- Since independence, numerous ordinances have been issued which clearly shows that this power has been used quite regularly instead of being the last resort.
- For example: The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was re-promulgated for the third time during the term of the 15th Lok Sabha.
- The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2010 was re-promulgated four times. This happened despite the SC verdict in 1986 condemning such action.
- The promulgation of Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 was seen as a politically motivated action.
- More recently the BJP led government has released three ordinances: The Farmers’ Produce Market Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020 which appear to be an abuse of power.

Conclusion

- Our Constitution has provided for the separation of powers among the legislature, executive and judiciary where enacting laws is the function of the legislature. The executive must show self-restraint and should use ordinance making power only in unforeseen or urgent matters and not to evade legislative scrutiny and debates.

DAILY QUIZ

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the role of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia in India's freedom struggle?

1. He was actively involved in the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) in 1934.
2. He was amongst the leaders who got arrested during the launch of the Quit India movement in 1942.

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

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

2. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Namath Basai' initiative?

- a) **It is a programme for teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.**
- b) It provides access to safe and adequate water for the tribal communities.
- c) It is a capacity building of scheduled tribe representatives in local self governments.
- d) It aims to provide e-marketplace for handicraft and organic products for tribals.

3. With reference to recently released Human Cost of Disasters report, Consider the following statements:

1. The report is published by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. The report also considers the biological hazards and disease-related disasters.

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. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched with an objective to increase the demand for physical gold and increase the domestic savings.
2. In this scheme, the Gold Bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Union Government.

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. With reference to Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2020, consider the following statements:

1. It is awarded to Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson.
2. It is awarded for development of auction theory.
3. It is also known as Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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