

GOVERNANCE

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960

The Supreme Court (SC) has asked the Centre to either withdraw or amend rules notified in 2017 for confiscating animals of traders and transporters during the pendency of trial in cases under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Key Points

About the 2017 Rules:

- The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules, 2017 have been framed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- The Rules allow a Magistrate to forfeit the cattle of an owner facing trial under the Act.
- The animals are then sent to infirmaries, animal shelters, etc.
- The authorities can further give such animals for “adoption”.

SC’s Observations:

- The Rules are plainly contrary to Section 29 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, under which only a person convicted of cruelty can lose his animal.
- It asked the government to either change the rule or face a stay from the court.

About the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960:

- The legislative intent of the Act is to “prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals”.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Act.
- This Act provides for punishment for causing unnecessary cruelty and suffering to animals. The Act defines animals and different forms of animals.
- Discusses different forms of cruelty, exceptions, and killing of a suffering animal in case any cruelty has been committed against it, so as to relieve it from further suffering.
- Provides the guidelines relating to experimentation on animals for scientific purposes.
- The Act enshrines the provisions relating to the exhibition of the performing animals, and offences committed against the performing animals.
- This Act provides for the limitation period of 3 months beyond which no prosecution shall lie for any offences under this Act.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Solidarity and Stability Deal: Gulf Countries

Recently, Gulf states signed a ‘solidarity and stability’ deal at the 41st Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit held in Al Ula, Saudi Arabia.



Key Points**Background:****Sanctions on Qatar:**

- In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and its allies, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt severed ties with Qatar and imposed a naval, air and land blockade on the country.

Reasons:

- Qatar was charged to be too close to Iran and backed radical Islamist groups.
- The country was alleged to support and fund terror through its support of Iran and Muslim Brotherhood (a Sunni Islamist political group outlawed by both Saudi Arabia and the UAE).

Solidarity and Stability Deal:

- Members of the GCC signed a deal in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia to remove all the sanctions over Qatar and re-open their land, sea and air borders to Qatar.
- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE are the members of GCC.

Reason:

- To unite efforts to promote the Gulf region and to confront challenges that surround them, especially the threats posed by the Iranian regime's nuclear and ballistic missile programme and its plans for sabotage and destruction.

Gulf Cooperation Council

- GCC is a political, economic, social, and regional organisation which was established by an agreement concluded in 1981 among Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE in view of their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny and common objectives.
- The structure of the GCC consists of the Supreme Council (the highest authority), the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat General. The Secretariat is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

India's Relation with Gulf Region**India and GCC:**

- The economic and political relationship of India with the GCC has improved in recent years.
- The friendly relation has been reflected in the bilateral trade of around USD 121 billion and remittances of USD 49 billion from a workforce of over nine million.
- GCC suppliers account for around 34% of India's crude imports.

India and Iran:

- India has always shared a friendly relationship with Iran. But the India-Iran relation faces one of the most complex phases at all times due to the USA's pressure which has politico-economic impacts.
- In May 2018, the USA abandoned the nuclear deal (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and reinstated economic sanctions against Iran.

India and Qatar:

- Recently, India's External Affairs Minister met the top leaders of Qatar and discussed strengthening the economic and security cooperation between the two countries.
- India shares a friendly relation with Qatar and even at the time of sanctions on Qatar, India maintained a cordial relation with the oil rich nation.

India's Overall Role in the Region:

- India has avoided involvement in local or regional disputes in the region, since Indian interests do not entail power projection but necessitate peace and regional stability.
- The Gulf is among India's top trading partners. The deepening energy interdependence is marked by growing volumes of energy imports into India. There is also the prospect of substantive investments from the Gulf into the Indian hydrocarbon sector.
- The number of Indian migrant workers in the region stands at more than 7 million.
- The expansion of the political engagement has been matched by the growing security cooperation, especially on counter-terrorism.
- India and its Gulf partners are also taking tentative steps towards defence cooperation.
- For example participation of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, and others in India's mega multilateral Milan Exercise.

Way Forward

The Gulf region has historical, political, economic, strategic and cultural significance for India. India-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) can provide a boost to the relations.

It has been assessed that Saudi Arabia is a fading power whereas UAE, Qatar and Iran are emerging as the new regional leaders. Oman and Iraq will have to struggle to retain their sovereign identities.

Thus, Indian interests would be best served if the stability in the region is ensured through cooperative security since the alternative, of competitive security options, cannot ensure durable peace.

INDIAN POLITY

Judicial Review

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) refused to treat the Central Vista project as a unique one requiring greater or heightened judicial review.

- The SC said the government was “entitled to commit errors or achieve successes” in policy matters without the court’s interference as long as it follows constitutional principles.
- The Central Vista project of New Delhi includes Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block, India Gate, National Archives among others.
- The Indian Constitution adopted the Judicial Review on lines of the American Constitution.

Key Points

Judicial Review:

- It is a type of court proceeding in which a judge reviews the lawfulness of a decision or action made by a public body.
- In other words, judicial reviews are a challenge to the way in which a decision has been made, rather than the rights and wrongs of the conclusion reached.

Concepts of Law:

Procedure Established by Law: It means that a law enacted by the legislature or the concerned body is valid only if the correct procedure has been followed to the letter.

Due Process of Law: It is a doctrine that not only checks if there is a law to deprive the life and personal liberty of a person but also ensures that the law is made fair and just.

India follows Procedure Established by Law.

- It is the power exerted by the courts of a country to examine the actions of the legislatures, executive and administrative arms of government and to ensure that such actions conform to the provisions of the nation’s Constitution.
- Judicial review has two important functions, like, of legitimizing government action and the protection of constitution against any undue encroachment by the government.
- Judicial review is considered a basic structure of the constitution (Indira Gandhi vs Raj Narain Case 1975).
- Judicial review is also called the interpretational and observer roles of the Indian judiciary.
- Suo Moto cases and the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), with the discontinuation of the principle of Locus Standi, have allowed the judiciary to intervene in many public issues, even when there is no complaint from the aggrieved party.

Types of Judicial Review:

Reviews of Legislative Actions:

- This review implies the power to ensure that laws passed by the legislature are in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Review of Administrative Actions:

- This is a tool for enforcing constitutional discipline over administrative agencies while exercising their powers.

Review of Judicial Decisions:

- This review is used to correct or make any change in previous decisions by the judiciary itself.

Importance of Judicial Review:

- It is essential for maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution.
- It is essential for checking the possible misuse of power by the legislature and executive.
- It protects the rights of the people.
- It maintains the federal balance.
- It is essential for securing the independence of the judiciary.
- It prevents tyranny of executives.

Problems with Judicial Review:

- It limits the functioning of the government.

- It violates the limit of power set to be exercised by the constitution when it overrides any existing law.
- In India, a separation of functions rather than of powers is followed.
- The concept of separation of powers is not adhered to strictly. However, a system of checks and balances have been put in place in such a manner that the judiciary has the power to strike down any unconstitutional laws passed by the legislature.
- The judicial opinions of the judges once taken for any case becomes the standard for ruling other cases.
- Judicial review can harm the public at large as the judgment may be influenced by personal or selfish motives.
- Repeated interventions of courts can diminish the faith of the people in the integrity, quality, and efficiency of the government.

Constitutional Provisions for Judicial Review

- There is no direct and express provision in the constitution empowering the courts to invalidate laws, but the constitution has imposed definite limitations upon each of the organs, the transgression of which would make the law void.
- The court is entrusted with the task of deciding whether any of the constitutional limitations has been transgressed or not.
- Some provisions in the constitution supporting the process of judicial review are:
- Article 372 (1) establishes the judicial review of the pre-constitution legislation.
- Article 13 declares that any law which contravenes any of the provisions of the part of Fundamental Rights shall be void.
- Articles 32 and 226 entrusts the roles of the protector and guarantor of fundamental rights to the Supreme and High Courts.
- Article 251 and 254 states that in case of inconsistency between union and state laws, the state law shall be void.
- Article 246 (3) ensures the state legislature's exclusive powers on matters pertaining to the State List.
- Article 245 states that the powers of both Parliament and State legislatures are subject to the provisions of the constitution.
- Articles 131-136 entrusts the court with the power to adjudicate disputes between individuals, between individuals and the state, between the states and the union; but the court may be required to interpret the provisions of the constitution and the interpretation given by the Supreme Court becomes the law honoured by all courts of the land.
- Article 137 gives a special power to the SC to review any judgment pronounced or order made by it. An order passed in a criminal case can be reviewed and set aside only if there are errors apparent on the record.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT

Asian Waterbird Census

The two-day Asian Waterbird Census-2020 has commenced in Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of experts from the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

Key Points

About:

- Every January, thousands of volunteers across Asia and Australasia visit wetlands in their country and count waterbirds. This citizen science programme is the Asian Waterbird Census (AWC).
- The AWC is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated by Wetlands International.
- The IWC is a monitoring programme operating in 143 countries to collect information on the numbers of waterbirds at wetland sites.
- Wetlands International is a global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands.
- It runs in parallel with other regional programmes of the International Waterbird Census in Africa, Europe, West Asia, the Neotropics and the Caribbean.

Scope:

- It was initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent and has grown rapidly to cover major regions of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia.
- The census covers the entire East Asian - Australasian Flyway and a large part of the Central Asian Flyway.
- The East Asia - Australasia Flyway extends from Arctic Russia and North America to the southern limits of Australia and New Zealand. It encompasses large parts of East Asia, all of Southeast Asia and includes eastern India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains.

Benefits:

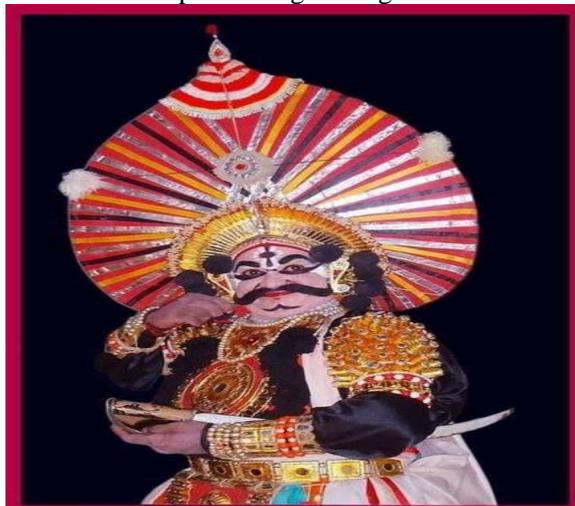
- The count not only gives an idea of the birds at the wetland but also the health of the wetland - a good number of waterbirds indicates that it has adequate feeding, resting, roosting and foraging spots.
- The information collected helps to promote the designation and management of internationally important sites such as nationally protected areas, Ramsar Sites, East Asian - Australasian Flyway Network Sites, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs).
- It also helps in implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD).

AWC in India:

- The AWC is jointly coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Wetlands International.
- BNHS is a pan-India wildlife research organization, which has been promoting the cause of nature conservation since 1883.
- A reference list of internationally important AWC sites and wetland IBAs in India has been prepared.
- India has 42 Ramsar sites, the latest one included is Tso Kar Wetland Complex of Ladakh.
- BirdLife's Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) Programme identifies, monitors and protects a global network of priority sites for the conservation of birds and other wildlife. India has more than 450 sites.
- The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP13) concluded in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in February 2020.
- Ten new species were added to CMS Appendices at COP13. Seven species were added to Appendix I (provides the strictest protection) including the Asian Elephant, Jaguar, Great Indian Bustard, Bengal Florican, etc.
- India submitted its Sixth National Report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2018.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM**Yakshagana**

Recently a Yakshagana artiste died while performing on stage.



Key Points

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka.
- It is a temple art form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
- It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).

Theatre Forms	State
Nautanki	Uttar Pradesh
Tamasha	Maharashtra
Bhavai	Gujarat
Jatra	West Bengal/Orissa and eastern Bihar
Koodiyattam	Kerala
Mudiyettu	Kerala
Bhaona	Assam
Maach	Madhya Pradesh
Bhand Pather	Kashmir

Note:

- Tulu is a Dravidian language whose speakers are concentrated in the region of Tulu Nadu, which comprises the districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi in Karnataka and the northern part of Kasaragod district of Kerala.
- The oldest available inscriptions in Tulu are from the period between 14th to 15th century AD.
- It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals).
- The most popular episodes are from the Mahabharata i.e. Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah, etc. and from Ramayana i.e. Rajyabhishek, Lav-Kush yuddh, etc.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Hybrid Warfare is a multi-pronged warfare methodology, thus to negate it, the response should also be holistic in nature. Discuss. (250 words)

Ans:

Hybrid warfare refers to the use of unconventional methods as part of a multi-domain warfighting approach. In Hybrid warfare, apart from conventional military tactics, non-military tools are used to achieve dominance or damage, subvert or influence.

- These tools may include information pollution, perception management and propaganda. These methods aim to disrupt and disable an opponent's actions without engaging in open hostilities.

Characteristics of Hybrid Warfare

- Multi Domained: This warfare is a combination of activities, including disinformation, economic manipulation, use of proxies and insurgencies, diplomatic pressure and military actions.
- Maximum Damage With Minimum Effort: It tends to target areas which are highly vulnerable and where maximum damage can be caused with minimum effort.
- Deploying Non-State Actors: It usually involves non-state actors indulging in subversive roles supported by states in order to exonerate themselves of any involvement if their activities are detected.

Recent Usage

- Israel-Lebanon War (2006): In this war Hybrid warfare was used by the Hezbollah group. It employed a host of different tactics like guerilla warfare, innovative use of technology and effective information campaigning.
- By Russia (2014): Hybrid warfare techniques were deployed against Ukraine in the annexation of Crimea. It involved a combination of activities, including disinformation, economic manipulation, use of proxies and insurgencies, diplomatic pressure etc.

- By China: Unrestricted Warfare, a publication by China's People's Liberation Army, talked about hybrid warfare and the need for a shift in the arena of violence from military to political, economic and technological.
- Recently it was reported that the Chinese company Zhenhua Data Information Technology Co. Limited is monitoring over 10,000 Indian individuals and organisations in its global database of foreign targets.

Threats Emanating From Hybrid Warfare:

- **Cyber Attacks:** This may include attacks on critical infrastructure like power grids, water supplies, business systems, and defence systems. These may be used to disrupt economic activities, undermine institutions, and discredit political leadership and the intelligentsia.
- **Evolving Nature of Terrorism:** The idea of Hybrid Warfare encourages new forms of terrorist attacks such as 'lone-wolf' attacks and creation of 'sleepers cells'. These attacks are extremely difficult to detect.
- Adversary could also act on the lines of radicalization of the population, which leads to issues like Communalism, Naxalism and Separatism in the long run.
- **Undermining Democracy:** The foreign government may manipulate the data, spread propaganda and misinformation and influence democratic systems like elections through use of social media, websites, advertisements etc.
- Use of techniques from campaigning through the media and social networks to securing financial resources for a political group may indirectly influence the outcome of an election in a direction that favors the adversary's political interests.
- **Disinformation and Fake News:** An adversary can create a parallel reality and use falsehoods to fuel social fragmentation. It could disorient the public and make it difficult for a government to seek public approval for a given policy or operation.

Holistic Responses to Combat Hybrid Warfare

- **Adopting multinational frameworks:** Threats from hybrid warfare are an international issue, so should be the response. National governments should coordinate a coherent approach amongst themselves to understand, detect and respond to hybrid warfare to their collective interests. Multinational frameworks should be developed to facilitate cooperation and collaboration across borders.
- **Institutional measures:** To keep vulnerabilities in check and estimate possible hybrid threats, conducting self-assessments of critical functions and vulnerabilities across all sectors and ensuring regular maintenance. For example, regularly upgrading critical Fintech systems in the country.
- **Training of armed forces:** In hybrid warfare, armed forces have a dual role in protecting civilian population and disabling enemy. Thus it needs to upgrade itself by adopting the following:
 - Training in special battle techniques, as well as conditioning to overcome urban combat stress.
 - Training in use of technological tools such as smart robots, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
 - Deploying Intelligence tools like Real Time Situational Awareness (RTSA) for precise operations.
- **Strengthening the democratic institutions:** This helps the government negate various forms of hybrid warfare such as disinformation and radicalization. Inclusion of Civil Society Institutions such as think tanks multiply the government's capabilities to counter such threats.
- **Investing in Journalism to raise media literacy:** It has been often reported that uses of the term "hybrid threats" by the media are often inaccurate. As a result, investing in journalism will indirectly help citizens in understanding the threat in a better way.

Conclusion

Thus, the governments across the world should establish a process to develop a national approach of self-assessment and threat analysis. Institutionalizing a process regarding threat and vulnerability information will enhance hybrid warfare early warning efforts, assist resiliency efforts, and may even have a deterrent effect.

DAILY QUIZ

1. With reference to Dedicated Freight Corridor, consider the following statements:

1. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor starts from Himachal Pradesh and ends in West Bengal.
2. Western Dedicated Freight Corridor starts from Uttar Pradesh and ends in 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

2. Consider the following statements:

- 1. UAE, Qatar and Bahrain share the maritime boundary of the Persian Gulf.
- 2. The Solidarity and Stability Deal has been signed among the Gulf Countries at the Gulf Cooperation Council held at Saudi Arabia.
- 3. The Solidarity and Stability Deal is signed to remove all the sanctions over Qatar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following pairs:

- | | <u>Theatre Forms</u> | <u>State</u> |
|----|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Bhava | Gujarat |
| 2. | Jatra | West Bengal |
| 3. | Koodiyattam | Karnataka |
| 4. | Yakshagana | Kerala |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- a) **1 and 2 only**
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding River Nile?

- 1. The Grand Renaissance Dam is being constructed on River Nile.
- 2. The river originates from south of the equator in Africa.
- 3. The river forms an arcuate delta and drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

5. With reference to Asian Waterbird Census, consider the following statements:

- 1. In India it is jointly coordinated by the Bombay Natural History Society and Wetlands International.
- 2. The census covers East Asian - Australasian Flyway and Central Asian Flyway.

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