

**GOVERNANCE****Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition: CFS**

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has endorsed the first-ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition (VGFSyN) which aim to support countries to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in all its forms by utilizing a food systems approach.

- The endorsement took place during the CFS 47th Session.

**Key Points****Food Systems Approach:**

- The Guidelines highlight the complex and multidimensional interlinkages between sustainable food systems and healthy diets.
- Food systems are a complex web of activities involving production, processing, handling, preparation, storage, distribution, marketing, access, purchase, consumption, food loss and waste, as well as the outputs of these activities, including social, economic and environmental outcomes.

**Seven Policy Areas:**

- Transparent, democratic and accountable governance.
- Sustainable food supply chains to achieve healthy diets and in the context of climate change.
- Equal and equitable access to healthy diets.
- Food safety.
- People-centred nutrition knowledge, education and information.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment across food systems.
- Resilient food systems in humanitarian contexts.

**Significance:**

- The guidelines are intended to build upon and complement the work and mandate of other international bodies, for example the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025) and Sustainable Development Goal (2) of 'Zero Hunger'.
- They call for realisation of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security for all, particularly for the most vulnerable and affected groups.
- They focus on policy planning and governance so that food systems can be made more resilient and responsive and are in accordance with needs of consumers and producers too, especially small and marginal farmers.

**India's Scenario****State of Hunger and Malnutrition:**

- According to FAO estimates in 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2020' Report:
- 189.2 million people are undernourished in India i.e. 14% of the population is undernourished.
- 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic.
- 34.7% of the children aged under five are stunted (too short for their age) while 20% suffer from wasting (weight too low in proportion to height).
- Besides, India ranked 94th among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2020.

**Initiatives Taken:**

- POSHAN Abhiyaan, launched in 2017-18, aims to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies through synergy and convergence among different programmes, better monitoring and improved community mobilisation.
- Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) aims to provide food at subsidized prices to poor families.
- The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) envisages comprehensive early childhood care and development by focussing on children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and adolescent girls.
- The Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme aims to improve nutritional levels among school children which also has a direct and positive impact on enrolment, retention and attendance in schools.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Rs. 6,000 is transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women for availing better facilities for their delivery.
- The National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology enables delivery of appropriate technologies and improved agronomic practices for farmers.

- The National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture aims to enhance agricultural productivity, and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) aims to improve water-use efficiency.

**INDIAN ECONOMY**

**Arbitration And Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2021**

Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill 2021 was passed recently in the Lok Sabha.

**Key Points**

- It seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996.
- It contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration.
- It defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
- It specifies that a stay on the arbitral award can be provided if the court is satisfied that the relevant arbitration agreement was induced by fraud or corruption.
- This change will be effective from October 23, 2015
- It removes the Schedule for arbitrators.
- The qualifications, experience, and norms for accreditation of arbitrations will be specified under the regulations.

**SOCIAL ISSUE**

**Steps taken by the Government for Child Beggars**

Lok Sabha recently informed about the steps related to Child Beggars.

**Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Key Points**

- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) is the primary law for children in the country.
- As per Section 2 of the Act, 2015, a child who is found working in contravention of labour laws or is found begging is included as a “child in need of care and protection”.
- As per Section 76, whoever employs any child for the purpose of begging shall be punishable with imprisonment upto five years and fine of one lakh rupees.
- **Child Protection Services (CPS)** under Integrated Child Development Services scheme supports the children in difficult circumstances including child beggars and destitute children.
- Institutional care is provided through **Child Care Institutions (CCIs)**, as a rehabilitative measure.
- The scheme supports 24x7 emergency helpline service for children in distress conditions (toll free number, 1098 from anywhere in India).
- A pilot project is undertaken for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of begging in 10 cities.
- It includes education of children engaged in begging/children of persons engaged in the begging.

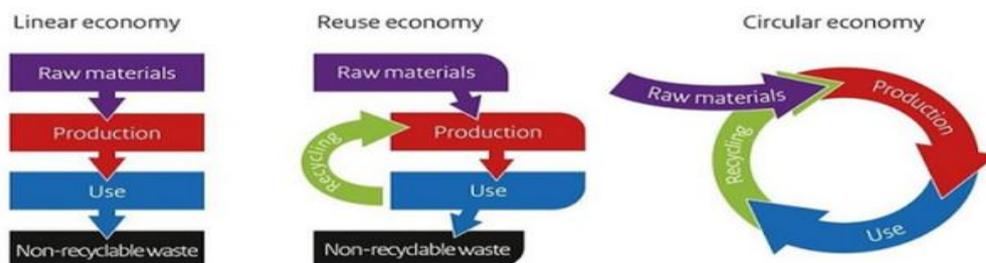
**INTERNATIONAL RELATION**

**India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021**

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Australia’s national science agency (CSIRO) kick started the India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon, 2021.

**Goal:** To enable talented innovative students and start-ups from Australia and India to address common national issues through innovative technology solutions

**From a linear to a circular economy**



**Key themes for the hackathon:**

1. Innovation in packaging reducing packaging waste

2. Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste
3. Creating opportunities for plastic waste reduction
4. Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste

**Do you know?**

A 'circular economy' model employs waste management and focuses on reusing, recycling and responsible manufacture.

It can support the development of new industries and jobs, reducing emissions and increasing efficient use of natural resources.

**GOVERNMENT SCHEMES****Schemes for Reducing Tax Disputes**

Recently, the Finance Secretary has said that the new system of faceless assessment and appeal would help bring down tax disputes substantially.

**Key Points****Tax Disputes (Data):**

- As per official data, the amount involved in tax disputes was over Rs. 11 lakh crore in FY19-end, up 23% over a year-ago.
- Since India has a very high number of tax litigations, the resolution times are significantly higher, involving time and cost (on the part of the government as well as taxpayers).
- Initiatives Taken to Reduce Tax Disputes:

**Dispute Resolution Committee:**

- In Budget 2021, the Minister of Finance has proposed the formation of a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) in order to provide quicker relief to taxpayers in tax disputes.
- It will be formed under a new section, 245MA, of the Income Tax Act.
- The DRC will cater to small taxpayers having a taxable income of up to Rs. 50 lakh and a disputed income of up to Rs. 10 lakh.
- The Committee will have the powers to reduce, waive any penalty or give immunity from any offence punishable under the Income Tax Act.
- The alternative mechanism through the DRC shall help taxpayers in preventing new disputes and settling the issue at the very initial stage.
- India has been ranked at 88 in the World Rule of Law Index 2020 in terms of accessibility of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

**Faceless Assessment and Appeal:**

- The Prime Minister in August 2020 announced three key structural tax reforms under the 'Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest' platform - faceless assessment, faceless appeal and taxpayers' charter.
- The faceless assessment system was launched to remove the need of the physical presence of the taxpayers in front of the tax officials.
- Since the launch of faceless random assessment, over 50,000 disputes have been settled.
- The faceless appeals system aims to eliminate discretionary powers of the taxman, curb corrupt practices and provide ease of compliance to taxpayers.
- Income Tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner with the exception of appeals related to serious fraud, major tax evasion, search matters, international tax issues and matters pertaining to black money.
- The tax charter elaborated on the rights and responsibilities of the taxpayers to help them familiarise with the whole process of Income Tax collection.
- The effort is on to establish a National Faceless Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Centre that will offer personal hearings through video-conferencing.

**Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme:**

- The scheme provides for settlement of disputed tax, disputed interest, disputed penalty or disputed fees in relation to an assessment or reassessment order on payment of 100% of the disputed tax and 25% of the disputed penalty or interest or fee.
- The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Act, 2020 was enacted in March 2020 to settle direct tax disputes locked up in various appellate forums.
- As many as 1.25 lakh cases, a quarter of all direct disputes, have opted for Vivad se Vishwas scheme, enabling settlement of Rs. 97,000 crore in tax demands.

**ODISHA DEVELOPMENTS**

**Centre Withdrew Draft Heritage Bylaws on Jagannath Temple**

The Centre has withdrawn the draft heritage bylaws issued by the National Monuments Authority (NMA) for Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha.

The Odisha Government is demanding withdrawal of the bylaws for temples in Ekamra Kshetra area of Bhubaneswar as well.

**Key Points**

- The government in 2010 formed the National Monuments Authority under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.
- NMA's primary role was to prepare heritage bylaws for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) listed structures.

**Meaning:**

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act 2010 mandates that monument-specific heritage bylaws be prepared to regulate construction activity near ASI-protected monuments.
- The draft heritage bylaws need to be approved by Parliament.

**The Case of Odisha:**

- The State government considered that the byelaws would have hampered the grand infrastructure development planned around 12th century Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri.
- Similar heritage bylaws have been drafted for two temples in Bhubaneswar - the 13th century Vaishnava temple of Ananta Basudev and Shiva temple of Brahmeswar, both in the Ekamra Kshetra area.
- In 2020, the state government planned a beautification project around the area spread across 1,126 acre and develop it into a major tourist attraction.

**Jagannath Temple:**



- It is believed to be constructed in the 12th century by King Anatavarman Chodaganga Deva of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty.

**Mythology:**

- Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death, has been nullified due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

**Architecture:**

- This temple was called the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- There are four gates to the temple- Eastern 'Singhdwara' which is the main gate with two crouching lions, Southern 'Ashwadwara', Western 'Vyaghra Dwara and Northern 'Hastidwara'. There is a carving of each form at each gate.
- In front of the entrance stands the Aruna stambha or sun pillar, which was originally at the Sun Temple in Konark.

**Festival:** The World famous Rath Yatra (Car Festival) & Bahuda Yatra.

**Other Important Monuments in Odisha:**

- Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site).
- Tara Tarini Temple.
- Lingaraj Temple.
- Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves.

**BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT****World Sustainable Development Summit 2021**

I Recently, the World Sustainable Development Summit, the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) was held.

- The theme of the 2021 Summit was ‘Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all’.
- TERI is a non-profit research institute, established in 1974. It conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development for India and the Global South.

**Key Points****Emphasis on Climate Justice:**

- “Climate justice” is a term, and more than that a movement that acknowledges climate change can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations.
- As per India, ‘climate justice’ is inspired by a vision of trusteeship - where growth comes with greater compassion to the poorest. It also means giving the developing countries enough space to grow.

**Reassurance to Climate Mitigation Efforts:**

- India reassured commitments to its targets under the Paris deal to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 percent from 2005 levels.
- India’s steady progress on its commitment to Land Degradation Neutrality and setting up of 450 gigawatts of Renewable Energy generating capacity till 2030 was also highlighted.
- Initiatives of India under International Solar Alliance were also discussed.

**Commitment to Enhancing Disaster Resilience:**

- To enhance India’s disaster management capabilities, commitments to Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) were assured.
- CDRI: A multi-stakeholder global partnership of country governments, UN agencies, multilateral banks, private sector and knowledge institutions that aims to build resilience into infrastructure systems to ensure sustainable development.

**India's Efforts Towards Sustainable Development:**

- In March 2019, India achieved nearly 100% electrification through sustainable technologies and innovative models.
- Through the Ujala Programme, 367 million LED bulbs were distributed which reduced over 38 million tonnes carbon dioxide per year.
- Through the PM Ujjwala Yojna, more than 80 million households below the poverty line have access to clean cooking fuel. India is working to increase the share of natural gas in India's energy basket from 6% to 15%.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission has connected over 34 million households with tap connections in 18 months.
- Through conservation efforts, the population of lions, tigers, leopards and Gangetic river dolphins has gone up.

**IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM****Tholpavakkoothu: Kerala**

Recently, a shadow leather puppet in Kerala’s famous temple art Tholpavakkoothu has been animated by a robot.

**Key Points**

- It is a traditional temple art in Kerala having its roots in Palakkad and neighbouring regions.
- This art is confined largely to Pulavar families from Shoranur region of Palakkad district.
- Among the ancient artforms of Kerala, tholpavakkoothu or shadow puppet play occupies a prominent place. It is a fine example of the integration of Aryan and Dravidian cultures.
- It is a ritual art performed during the annual festivals in the Kaali temples of Palakkad district.
- It is also known as Nizhalkkoothu and Olakkoothu.
- The theme of the play is based on the Kamba Ramayana (the Tamil version of the epic).

Origin:

- In Malayalam, Thol means leather, pava means doll and koothu the play. Though the origin of this ritualistic art form is not known exactly, some believe it to be as old as 1200 years.
- It used to be performed in the Bhadrakali temples of Palakkad, telling tales from the Ramayana.

**The Show:**

- This entertainment art is performed on a special stage called koothumadam in the temple courtyard.
- It is performed using the mythological figures along with the use of fire and lighting of lamps behind the screen.
- The chief puppeteer is known as ‘Pulavan’.

**Musical Instruments Used:**

Ezhupara, Chenda and Maddalam etc.

Regional Names of Shadow Puppetry in India	
State	Name
Andhra Pradesh	Tholu bommalata
Karnataka	Togalu gombeyaata
Maharashtra	Charma bahuli natya
Odisha	Ravanachhaya
Kerala	Tholapavakkoothu
Tamil Nadu	Thol bommalata

### DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

**Qns** The strength sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of ‘Functions, Functionaries and Funds’ to the contemporary stage of ‘Functionality’. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. (UPSC Mains 2020)

Ans:

Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Governments, as units of local government, have been in existence in India for a long time. However, they were granted constitutional status as the third tier of India’s federal democracy through the 73rd & 74th Amendment Act.

- The primary objective of establishing the third tier of the government is to increase democratic decentralization. However, there are many issues which have rendered the 3rd tier of government in a state where it has more responsibility but less power and resources. While traditional challenges in terms of funds, functions and functionaries (3Fs) remain quite relevant even today, we cannot lose sight of challenges being phase in terms of “functionality”.

**Challenges Which Affects Functionality of Local Institutions**

- **Emergence of Parallel Governance:** Smart Cities Mission aims to establish a Special purpose vehicle for the execution of the city development. This has created a parallel institution vis-a-vis Urban local government. This functional overlapping may eventually lead to weakening of local bodies.
- **Top-Down Approach:** NITI Aayog’s Aspirational District plan envisages top-down development of these districts, which not only undermines the role of local governments but also goes against the spirit of Democratic decentralization. Further, this one-size-fits-all approach also affects the functionality of local governments.

- Lack of Effective Devolution: Local government is a state subject in the Constitution, and consequently, the devolution of power and authority to panchayats and urban local governments has been left to the discretion of states.
- Most states in India are yet to provide adequate functional autonomy to the local bodies.
- Structural Issues: Some of the Gram panchayats or urban local governments do not have their own building or they exist but without basic facilities like toilets, drinking water, and electricity connection.
- Moreover, there is a lack of support staff and personnel in local bodies such as secretaries, junior engineers, computer operators, and data entry operators. This affects their functioning and delivery of services.
- Corruption: Local bodies are marred by corruption. Due to this, local bodies are not able to function properly and subsequently affect the development process.

### Way Forward

- Activity Mapping: The 2nd ARC had recommended that there should be a clear-cut demarcation of functions of each tier of the government.
- Ensuring Principle of Subsidiarity: According to the 2nd ARC, the principle of subsidiarity should be followed while deciding on the implementation machinery for any programme, i.e. central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level
- Ensuring Fiscal Federalism: As functionality also depends on finances, fiscal autonomy accompanied by fiscal accountability can provide a long term solution to the problems faced by local bodies.
- Effective Auditing: Audit committees may be constituted by the State Governments at the district level to exercise oversight of the integrity of financial information, adequacy of internal controls, compliance with the applicable laws and ethical conduct of all persons involved in local bodies.
- In this pursuit, the initiative of the Meghalaya government to make social auditing mandatory is worth emulating by other states.
- Convergence of Various Government Programmes: There is a need for convergence of various development programs of the Centre and state governments. In this context, Mission Antyodaya is a step in the right direction.

### Conclusion

The governments should make adequate efforts to devolve funds, functions, and functionaries to local bodies so that they can effectively plan economic development and social justice schemes.

### DAILY QUIZ

1. Which of the Following body is responsible for National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)?
  - a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
  - b) National Commission on Agriculture (NCA)
  - c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**
  - d) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
2. From the below, identify the incorrect statement with reference to 'leader of opposition'?
  - a) The Leader of the opposition is the parliamentary chairperson of the party with the most seats after the government party.
  - b) It received statutory recognition from the beginning of Indian Parliament.**
  - c) The position also existed in former Central Legislative Assembly of British India.
  - d) If lower house of parliament does not have recognised leader of opposition, then selection committee of CVC will contain leader of largest party.
3. Consider the following statement regarding The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) –
  1. MGNREGA guarantees hundred days of wage employment in a financial year, to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do skilled manual work.
  2. Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant.
  3. Construction of AWC building has been included as an approved activity under the MGNREG Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 only  
c) **2 and 3 only**  
d) All of the Above
4. Consider the following statement regarding 'Inner Line Permit' –
1. The system is in force today in three states – Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura.
  2. Restriction under ILP is only for entry and not for staying.
  3. Original aim of this was to protect the Crown's own commercial interests by preventing "British subjects" (Indians) from trading within these regions.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) **3 only**  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) All of the Above
5. Which of the following disease is related to "Nikshay Poshan Yojana" ?
- a) Cancer  
b) Diabetes  
c) **Tuberculosis**  
d) Epilepsy



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