

INDIAN POLITY**Media has Right to Report Court Proceeding**

Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) dismissed a plea by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to restrain media from reporting oral observations of the judges.

Key Points**Freedom of Speech:**

- Real-time reportage of court proceedings, including the oral exchanges in courtrooms between judges and lawyers, is part of the right to freedom of speech.
- Under Article 19, Indian Constitution guarantees Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- With the advent of technology, reporting has proliferated through social media forums, which provides real-time updates to a much wider audience. This is an extension of the freedom of speech and expression that the media possesses. This constitutes a virtual extension of the open court.
- Except in cases of child sexual abuse and marital issues, the phenomenon of free press should extend to court proceedings.

Judicial Integrity: Right of the media to report and disseminate issues and events, including court proceedings that were a part of the public domain, augmented the integrity of the judiciary.

Functionality of Open Court Proceeding:

- Ensures that the judicial process is subject to public scrutiny which in turn is crucial to maintaining transparency and accountability and transparency in the functioning of democratic institutions is crucial to establish the public's faith in them.
- Ensures that judges act in accordance with law and with probity.
- Court proceedings are vital sources of public information about the activities of the legislature and the executive. An open court serves an educational purpose as well becoming a platform for citizens to know how the practical application of the law impacts upon their rights.

Language: There is a need for judges to exercise caution in off-the-cuff remarks in open court, which may be susceptible to misinterpretation. Language, both on the Bench and in judgments, must comport with judicial propriety. Language is an important instrument of a judicial process which is sensitive to constitutional values.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION**G7 Foreign Ministers' Meet**

Recently, Foreign Ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) countries (USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan) held a meeting in London, UK. The 47th G7 Summit will be held in June 2021. The UK is the host country.

Key Points**About:**

Invited Guests: Australia, India, South Korea, South Africa and the Chair (Brunei Darussalam) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa will also join the G7 Summit in June.

Discussions:

- **Russia's Irresponsible and Destabilising Behaviour:** This includes the large build-up of Russian military forces on Ukraine's borders and in illegally-annexed Crimea.
- **Related to China:** Human rights violations and abuses in Xinjiang and in Tibet, especially the targeting of Uyghurs, members of other ethnic and religious minority groups. Called on China to respect Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and rights and freedoms (Basic Law).

- Condemned the military coup in Myanmar.

Indo-Pacific:

- Support for the centrality of ASEAN on the Indo-Pacific.
- Reiterated the importance of maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific which is inclusive and based on the rule of law, democratic values, territorial integrity, transparency, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

International Rules-based Order: This can be described as a shared commitment by all countries to conduct their activities in accordance with agreed rules that evolve over time, such as international law, regional security arrangements, trade agreements, immigration protocols, and cultural arrangements.

Group of Seven (G7)**About:**

- It is an intergovernmental organisation that was formed in 1975.
- The bloc meets annually to discuss issues of common interest like global economic governance, international security and energy policy.
- The G7 does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.
- The groundwork for the summit, including matters to be discussed and follow-up meetings, is done by the “sherpas”, who are generally personal representatives or members of diplomatic staff such as ambassadors.
- The leaders of important international organizations like European Union, IMF, World Bank and the United Nations are also invited.

Issues: Not all of the G7 countries are among the most advanced now. India is both a military and economic giant but isn't part of the G7. So, its expansion, just like that of the United Nations Security Council, is called for.

India and G7:

- **Previous Participation:** The participation of India at the 45th summit in Biarritz, France, in August 2019 is a reflection of deepening strategic partnership and recognition of India as a major economic power. India was also invited for the 2020 summit hosted by the USA which could not take place due to the pandemic. Previously India had attended the G8 summit (it became G7 from G8 with the expulsion of Russia in 2014) five times between 2005 and 2009.
- **Significance of India's Engagement with G7:** It provides an opportunity for India to develop cordial relations with developed countries. It will boost security cooperation with member countries in Indo-Pacific, particularly the Indian ocean. As current president of Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) and G20 president in 2023, India will play a key role driving in multilateral cooperation helping to build back better around the world.

INDIAN ECONOMY**Falling Bond Yield**

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to step up purchase of Government Securities (G-Sec) under the Government Securities Acquisition Programme (G-SAP) led to the yield on the benchmark 10-year bond falling below 6%. In India, the yield of 10-year G-Sec is considered the benchmark and shows the overall interest rate scenario.

Key Points

Bond Yield: Bond yield is the return an investor realizes on a bond. The mathematical formula for calculating yield is the annual coupon rate divided by the current market price of the bond. **Bond:** Is an instrument to borrow money. A bond could be issued by a country's government or by a company to raise funds. **Coupon Rate:** It is the rate of interest paid by bond issuers on the bond's face value.

Effect of General Movement of Bond Yields: Movements in yields depend on trends in interest rates, it can result in capital gains or losses for investors. A rise in bond yields in the market will bring the price of the bond down. A drop in bond yield would benefit the investor as the price of the bond will rise, generating capital gains.

Reason for Decreasing Bond Yields:

Due to economic uncertainty caused by Covid-19.

In April 2021, the RBI launched G-SAP which has caused a decrease in G-sec yields which has continued since then.

Impact:

- **Better Equity Markets:** A decline in yield is also better for the equity markets because money starts flowing out of debt investments to equity investments. Equity market: It is a market in which shares of companies are issued and traded, either through exchanges or over-the-counter markets. Also known as the stock market. That means as bond yields go down, the equity markets tend to outperform by a bigger margin and as bond yields go up equity markets tend to falter.
- **Reduced Cost of Capital:** When bond yields go up, the cost of capital goes up. That means that future cash flows get discounted at a higher rate. Discounting is the process of determining the present value of a payment or a stream of payments that is to be received in the future. This compresses the valuations of these stocks. That is one of the reasons that whenever the interest rates are cut by the RBI, it is positive for stocks.
- **Reduces Risk of Bankruptcy:** When bond yields go up, it is a signal that corporates will have to pay a higher interest cost on debt. As debt servicing costs go higher, the risk of bankruptcy and default also increases and this typically makes mid-cap and highly leveraged companies vulnerable.

RBI's Stand:

- The RBI has been aiming to keep yields lower as that reduces borrowing costs for the government while preventing any upward movement in lending rates in the market.
- A rise in bond yields will put pressure on interest rates in the banking system which will lead to a hike in lending rates. The RBI wants to keep interest rates steady to kick-start investments. The Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bengaluru, have resolved the mystery of the antimatter counterpart of the electrons called Positron and Positron Excess Phenomenon.

2. Social Stock Exchanges

A technical group on Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs), constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has submitted its report.

Key Points**About Social Stock Exchanges (SSEs):**

- **The idea of the Social Stock Exchange (SSE):** As a platform for listing social enterprise, voluntary and welfare organisations so that they can raise capital was mooted in the Union Budget 2019-20. Social enterprise can be defined as a non-loss; non-dividend paying company created and designed to address a social problem. It was proposed to be set up under the market regulator SEBI.
- **The Aim:** of the initiative is to help social and voluntary organisations which work for social causes to raise capital as equity or debt or a unit of mutual fund.
- SSE already exists in countries such as Singapore, UK, Canada among others. These countries allow firms operating in sectors such as health, environment and transportation to raise capital.

Recommendations of the Group:

Type of the Organisation: Political and religious organisations, trade organisations as well as corporate foundations should not be allowed to raise funds through SSEs.

Eligibility: For Profit Enterprise (FPE) and Not for Profit Organisation (NPO) will be eligible to tap the SSE if they are able to show their primary goals are social intent and impact. Entities listed on SSE will have to disclose their social impact report on an annual basis covering aspects such as "strategic intent and planning, approach, impact score card". NPOs are usually structured as non-governmental

organisations, Section 8 companies, trusts or societies. FPEs can be private limited companies, partnerships or sole proprietorships.

Different Modes of Fund Raising:

- For NPOs, fundraising through equity, zero coupon zero principal bond, development impact bonds, social impact fund with 100% grants-in grants out provision, and donations by investors through mutual funds.
- For FPEs, fundraising through equity, debt, development impact bonds, and social venture funds.

Eligible Activities: Social enterprises can engage in activities in such as:

- Eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition and inequality; promoting health care (including mental health) and sanitation; and making available safe drinking water.
- Promoting education, employability and livelihoods.
- Promoting gender equality, empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Ensuring environmental sustainability, addressing climate change (mitigation and adaptation), forest and wildlife conservation.
- Promoting livelihoods for rural and urban poor, including enhancing income of small and marginal farmers and workers in the non-farm sector.
- Slum area development, affordable housing and other interventions to build sustainable and resilient cities.

Way Forward

- As the Covid-19 effects on the world economy show, it is critical for public and private sources of capital to come together and develop ingenious methods to ensure that capital flow to the social sector is unhindered and capital is utilised effectively to generate a lasting impact for the community.
- Institutional support through SSEs ensures that more investors are encouraged to integrate environmental aspects (such as resource conservation, environmentally sustainable working practices), social aspects (including privacy, data protection, employee welfare) and governance aspects (like board diversity, conflicts of interest resolution mechanism, independent oversight of management) into the evaluation of enterprises, moving beyond financial statements.
- To this end, all efforts need to be directed to make sure that an enabling regulatory environment is created for the planned SSE with a minimal compliance burden imposed on the enterprises, social entrepreneurs and investors.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**1.5G Trial**

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has given permissions to Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for conducting trials for use and applications of 5G technology. This formally leaves out Chinese companies like Huawei and ZTE from the 5G race in India.

Key Points**About the Trials:**

- In the initial phase, these trials will be for 6 months, including a 2 month period for procurement and setting up of the equipment.
- TSPs will be required to test their set up in urban areas, semi-urban areas as well as rural areas.
- TSPs will be provided with experimental spectrum in various bands, such as the mid-band of 3.2 GHz to 3.67 GHz, the millimeter wave band of 24.25 GHz to 28.5 GHz, and others.
- Applications such as tele-medicine, tele-education, augmented/ virtual reality, drone-based agricultural monitoring, etc. will be tested. The data generated during the trials will be stored in India.
- **Use of Indigenous Technology:** The TSPs are encouraged to conduct trials using 5Gi technology in addition to the already known 5G Technology. The 5Gi technology was advocated by India and it is approved by International Telecommunications Union (ITU) - the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies – ICTs. The 5Gi technology has been developed by IIT Madras, Centre of Excellence in Wireless

Technology (CEWiT) and IIT Hyderabad. It facilitates much larger reach of the 5G towers and Radio networks.

Need for 5G Trial:

- The telecom market in India is left with only three private telcos, with the rest having surrendered to the low returns on investments over the years. The two state-run companies, MTNL and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have survived but are making losses.
- In order to increase their average revenue per user, it is pertinent for telcos to start offering the new 5G technology as soon as possible.

Chinese Telecom Companies in India:

- India's telecom ministry has left out Chinese equipment makers Huawei and ZTE from its 5G trials, becoming the latest country to lock the firms out. The US says Huawei could be used by China for spying, via its 5G equipment and its Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has even ordered certain US telecommunications companies to remove Huawei equipment from their network.
- India is yet to implement any type of official ban on the Chinese companies, which currently supply a significant amount of equipment to India's mobile providers.
- However, the government has signalled a tighter, more security-oriented approach to the country's networks, which is widely expected to work against the Chinese companies.

Evolution from First Generation to Fifth Generation:

- 1G was launched in the 1980s and worked on analog radio signals and supported only voice calls.
- 2G was launched in the 1990s which uses digital radio signals and supported both voice and data transmission with a bandwidth of 64 Kbps.
- 3G was launched in the 2000s with a speed of 1 Mbps to 2 Mbps and it has the ability to transmit telephone signals including digitised voice, video calls and conferencing.
- 4G was launched in 2009 with a peak speed of 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps and it also enables 3D virtual reality.

2. Findings about Venus

Recently, scientists have obtained new data about Venus by bouncing radio waves off the planet.

The scientists transmitted radio waves toward Venus 21 times from 2006 to 2020 from NASA's Goldstone Antenna in the Mojave Desert of California and studied the radio echo, which provided information on certain planetary traits.

Key Points**Latest Findings:**

- A single Venusian rotation takes 243.0226 Earth days. This means a day lasts longer than a year on Venus, which makes a complete orbit around the sun in 225 Earth days.
- The Venusian planetary core has a diameter of about 7,000 km, comparable to Earth's core which is 6,970 km.
- The Venusian tilt is at about 2.64 degrees. Earth's is about 23.5 degrees.

Previous Findings:

- Presence of phosphine was detected in the atmosphere of Venus. This indicates the possibility of the presence of lifeforms on Venus.
- According to a study published in Nature Geoscience, Venus is still geologically active.
- The study identified 37 active volcanoes, in the form of ring-like structures known as coronae, on the surface of Venus.

About Venus :

- Venus, the second planet from the sun, is similar in structure but slightly smaller than Earth (Earth's Twin).
- It has a thick and toxic atmosphere that consists primarily of carbon dioxide, with clouds of sulfuric acid droplets.
- With a runaway greenhouse effect, its surface temperatures reach 471 degrees Celsius, hot enough to melt lead. The phenomenon, called the 'runaway greenhouse' effect, occurs when a planet absorbs more energy from the sun than it can radiate back to space. Under these circumstances, the hotter the surface temperature gets, the faster it warms up.

- Venus is one of just two planets that rotate from east to west. Only Venus and Uranus have this “backwards” rotation.
- Venus has no moons and no rings.
- On Venus, one day-night cycle takes 117 Earth days because Venus rotates in the direction opposite of its orbital revolution around the Sun.

Missions Related to Venus:

- ISRO Shukrayaan: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is also planning a mission to Venus, tentatively called Shukrayaan
- Akatsuki (Japanese 2015)
- Venus Express (European Space Agency 2005)
- NASA’s Magellan (1989)

SOCIAL ISSUE**Unique Disability Identification Portal**

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has issued a notification making it mandatory for all States/UTs to grant certificate of disability through online mode only using UDID (Unique Disability ID) portal w.e.f. 01.06.2021.

Key Points**Unique Disability Identification (UDID) Portal:**

- The project is being implemented with a view of creating a National Database for persons with disabilities (PwDs), and to issue a Unique Disability Identity Card to each PwDs.
- The project will not only encourage transparency, efficiency and ease of delivering the government benefits to the person with disabilities, but also ensure uniformity.
- The project will also help in stream-lining the tracking of physical and financial progress of beneficiaries at all levels of hierarchy of implementation – from village level, block level, District level, State level and National level.

Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016:

- Right of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.
- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- It increases the quantum of reservation for people suffering from disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes.
- This Act brings our law in line with the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory.

Other Programmes/Initiatives for Disableds:

- Accessible India Campaign: Creation of Accessible Environment for PwDs.
- DeenDayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme: Financial assistance is provided to NGOs for providing various services to Persons with Disabilities.
- Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP): It aims at helping the disabled persons by bringing suitable, durable, scientifically-manufactured, modern, standard aids and appliances within their reach.
- National Fellowship for Students with Disabilities: It aims to increase opportunities to students with disabilities for pursuing higher education.

BIODIVERSITY & ENVIRONMENT**1.Eco Sensitive Zone Around Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary**

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified an Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS, Maharashtra).

Key Points

- **About Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary:**
- It is the second marine sanctuary of Maharashtra after Malvan sanctuary, and lies along the western bank of the Thane Creek.
- It is recognized as an “Important Bird Area” by the Bombay Natural History Society.
- TCFS is home to 39 categories of mangrove species, 167 species of birds like flamingos, 45 fish species, 59 species of butterflies, 67 insect species and mammals like jackals among others.

Thane Creek:

- It is an inlet in the shoreline of the Arabian Sea that isolates the city of Mumbai from the Indian mainland.
- The creek is divided into two parts: the Ghodbunder-Thane stretch and the Thane -Trombay (Uran) stretch.
- The creek has been formed due to seismic faults lying below it which runs from Uran to Thane.

About: Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. In case of places with sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, even areas beyond 10 km width can be included in the eco-sensitive zone.

Aim: To regulate certain activities around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries so as to minimise the negative impacts of such activities on the fragile ecosystem encompassing the protected areas.

Regulation of Activities in ESZs:

- **Prohibited Activities:** Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.
- **Regulated Activities:** Felling of trees, establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.
- **Permitted Activities:** Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities.

Significance:

- To minimise the impact of urbanisation and other developmental activities, areas adjacent to protected areas have been declared as Eco-Sensitive Zones as it acts as a shock absorber.
- They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- ESZs help in in-situ conservation, which deals with conservation of an endangered species in its natural habitat, for example the conservation of the One-horned Rhino of Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
- ESZs minimise forest depletion and man-animal conflict.

Challenges:

- **Climate Change:** The rise in global temperature has generated land, water and ecological stress on the ESZs.
- **Local Communities:** Slash and burn techniques used in agriculture, pressure of increasing population and the rising demand for firewood and forest produce, etc. exerts pressure on the protected areas.

2.Global Methane Assessment

Recently, a report, titled Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions suggested that the world needs to dramatically cut methane emissions to avoid the worst of climate change.

About:

- Methane is gas that is found in small quantities in Earth's atmosphere. Methane is the simplest hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms (CH₄). Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. It is flammable, and is used as a fuel worldwide.
- Methane is produced by the breakdown or decay of organic material and can be introduced into the atmosphere by either natural processes – such as the decay of plant material in wetlands, the seepage of gas from underground deposits or the digestion of food by cattle – or human activities – such as oil and gas production, rice farming or waste management.

Impact of Methane:

- Methane is 84 times more potent than carbon and doesn't last as long in the atmosphere before it breaks down. This makes it a critical target for reducing global warming more quickly while simultaneously working to reduce other greenhouse gases.
- It is responsible for creating ground-level ozone, a dangerous air pollutant.

Key Points

Current Situation:

- Human-caused methane emissions are increasing faster currently than at any other time since record-keeping began in the 1980s.
- Carbon dioxide levels have dropped during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, methane in the atmosphere reached record levels last year.
- This is a cause of concern as it was responsible for about 30% of warming since pre-industrial times.

Reducing Methane Emissions from Major Sources:

Fossil Fuel:

- Oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution accounted for 23% of methane emissions in the fossil fuel sector. Coal mining accounted for 12% of emissions.
- Fossil fuel industry had the greatest potential for low-cost methane cuts, up to 80% of measures in the oil and gas industry could be implemented at negative or low cost.
- About 60% of methane cuts in this sector could make money as reducing leaks would make more gas available for sale.

Waste:

- Landfills and wastewater made up about 20% of emissions in the waste sector.
- The waste sector could cut its methane emissions by improving the disposal of sewage around the world.

Agriculture:

- In the agricultural sector, livestock emissions from manure and enteric fermentation constituted for roughly 32% and rice cultivation 8% of emissions.
- Three behavioural changes — reducing food waste and loss, improving livestock management and adopting healthy diets (vegetarian or with a lower meat and dairy content) — could reduce methane emissions by 65–80 million tonnes per year over the next few decades.,

Region-wise Emission Reduction Potential:

- **Europe:** Greatest potential to curb methane emissions from farming, fossil fuel operations and waste management.
- The European Commission had adopted the European Union Methane Strategy.
- **India:** Greatest potential to reduce methane emissions in the waste sector.
- **China:** Mitigation potential was best in coal production and livestock.
- **Africa:** Its potential to reduce methane emission was in livestock, followed by oil and gas.

Need and Benefits:

- Human-caused methane emissions must be cut by 45% to avoid the worst effects of climate change.
- Such a cut would prevent a rise in global warming by up to 0.3 degrees Celsius by 2045. It would also prevent 260,000 premature deaths, 775,000 asthma-related hospital visits annually, as well as 25 million tonnes of crop losses.
- However, cutting methane emissions can rapidly reduce the rate of warming in the near-term as the gas broke down quickly.

Related Indian Initiatives

- **Seaweed-Based Animal Feed:** Central Salt & Marine Chemical Research Institute (CSMCRI) in collaboration with the country's three leading institutes developed a seaweed-based animal feed additive formulation that aims to reduce methane emissions from cattle and also boost immunity of cattle and poultry.
- **India Greenhouse Gas Program:** The India GHG Program led by WRI India (non-profit organization), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is an industry-led voluntary framework to measure and manage greenhouse gas emissions. The programme builds comprehensive measurement and management strategies to reduce emissions and drive more profitable, competitive and sustainable businesses and organisations in India.
- **National Action Plan on Climate Change:** The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched in 2008 which aims at creating awareness among the representatives of the public, different agencies of the government, scientists, industry and the communities on the threat posed by climate change and the steps to counter it.
- **Bharat Stage-VI Norms:** India shifted from Bharat Stage-IV (BS-IV) to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emission norms.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR PRELIM

Dahla Dam

Recently, the Taliban has captured Afghanistan's second-biggest dam - Dahla Dam.

Key Points

Dahla Dam:

- The Dahla Dam is also known as Arghandab Dam.
- It is located in the Shah Wali Kot District of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.
- It was constructed in 1952 by the USA.
- It is built on the Arghandab River.

Dams built by India in Afghanistan:

- Pact for Construction of Shahtoot Dam on Kabul River.
- Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam).

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Q. Discuss the major reservations of India with respect to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Ans:

Introduction

Nuclear Proliferation Treaty is an international treaty, signed in 1968, which envisages three objectives of non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. However, India criticized this treaty for having structural flaws and viewed it as an imbalanced instrument.

Body

- India is one of the only five countries that either did not sign the NPT and due to the following issues India considers the NPT as discriminatory and had refused to sign it.
- **Failure of Disarmament Process:** The NPT proposes no tangible disarmament roadmap, no reference to testing ban or to the freezing of production of either fissile materials or nuclear weapons, and omitted provisions for reductions and elimination.
- **Nuclear 'Haves' and 'Have-Nots':** India criticizes the treaty to be discriminatory as it focuses on preventing only horizontal proliferation while there is no limit for vertical proliferation. In this context, India demands that the Nuclear Weapon State (NWS) should renounce its arsenals and further production in return for the commitment of Non-NWS not to produce them.
- **Discriminating Safeguards:** Under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) protocols of nuclear safety, the NWS allowed maintaining 'voluntary' safeguards while the rest were subjected to comprehensive safeguards, which seemed intrusive and discriminatory to the NNWS.
- **Emergence of Non-state Actors:** The emergence of non-state actors with declared intent to access weapons of mass destruction and the detection of a global nuclear black-market, has raised concerns on the limitations of the NPT.

Conclusion: India has opposed the international treaties aimed at non-proliferation since they were selectively applicable to the non-nuclear powers and legitimized the monopoly of the five nuclear weapons powers. Thus, all nations should engage to carve out a multilateral framework for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and global peace.

DAILY QUIZ

Q.1 Consider the following statements regarding President's Rule in India.

1. President's Rule is imposed when the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
2. The imposition of the President's rule is approved by the president and does not require the sanction of the Parliament.
3. A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation without parliamentary approval.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.2 Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is neither a statutory body nor a regulatory body.
2. According to the Clinical Trial Rules, only the ICMR can initiate action when investigators or sponsor of vaccines fail to comply with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act or the Rules.
3. Recently, the Central Government has notified to include Remdesivir in the list of scheduled drugs.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.3 With reference to Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was announced at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Paris.
- 2. It aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.4 Consider the following statements regarding the Legal Metrology Act 2009:

- 1. The act provides for application of legal requirements to measurements and measuring instruments.
- 2. The Department of Science and Technology administers the Legal Metrology Act 2009.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Q. 5 Th Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an intergovernmental body established World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 2. The CAC aims to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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