

FEDERALISM IN INDIA

❖ **Centre and State powers over water resources**

CONTEXT: Recently, Delhi Chief Minister urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to solve the long-pending Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal issue between Punjab and Haryana, saying, "It's the duty of the Centre to ensure water for Punjab and Haryana, not to make them fight".

- Apart from Punjab, many states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka have complained of inadequate disbursement of funds by Centre, claiming that the delay has caused stalling of important dam projects. Moreover, States have often accused the Centre of hogging the credit for several such developments achieved by State governments in their area.
- Subjects like electricity, water resources, law and order, judiciary, and finance have a power overlap between Centre and States in the Constitution – leading to a tussle between the Centre and States.

❖ **Water: Union List vs. State List**

- Article 246 grants the Centre the exclusive power to make laws on the following subjects under List I of the Seventh Schedule:
 - Decide on shipping and navigation on inland and tidal (sea) waterways and on national waterways for vessels
 - Regulate training and education of mercantile marines by states and other agencies
 - Decide on goods, passengers by sea or national waterways via mechanically propelled vessels
 - Regulate and develop interstate rivers and river valleys
 - Decide on fishing and fisheries beyond territorial waters

Similarly, States are empowered to:

- Develop roads, bridges, ferries, municipal tramways, ropeways and other means of communication on inland waterways in the State
- Decide on water supply, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power
- Taxes on goods and passengers carried by road or on inland waterways
- Decide on shipping and navigation on inland waterways via mechanically propelled vessels and carriage of passengers and goods on such waters
- On comparing the two lists, there appears to be an overlap in the powers of the Centre and State as far as shipping and navigation on inland waterways is concerned. Moreover, the development of water supplies, canals and riverbanks is also an area of conflict between States.

❖ **Centre and inter-State river disputes**

- One of the major water-related issues tasked to the Centre, inter-State river disputes in India are governed by the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956. An amendment to the Act was passed by the Lok Sabha in 2019 but is yet to get the Upper House's nod.

❖ **How are river disputes resolved?**

- Under the Act, any State may request the Centre to refer an inter-State river dispute to a tribunal for adjudication. If the Centre feels that negotiations cannot settle the dispute, it may setup such a Water Disputes Tribunal within one year of the complaint. The tribunal must decide on the dispute within three years, which may be extended by two years.
- However, if the matter is again referred to the Tribunal for further consideration, it must submit a report to the Centre within one year, which may be extended if deemed necessary. All decisions of the Tribunal are final and binding.
- After its publication in the Official Gazette, a decision has the same force as an order of the Supreme Court. The Centre may create a scheme to give effect to the decision of such a tribunal. It is also tasked with maintaining a data bank of each river basin in the country.
- The Bill, however, streamlines this mechanism by dissolving all existing Tribunals and transferring ongoing disputes to the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal which may have multiple benches.
- It also constitutes a Disputes Resolution Committee for any river dispute with Central government members, experts, and members of each party State to resolve the issue within one year, which may be extended by six months.
- Disputes unresolved by the committee will be sent to the Tribunal which comprises of Central government ministers or nominees and a Supreme Court Judge. The Tribunal must decide on any dispute within one year and its decision will be final and binding on the parties involved. Also, the Centre is mandated to create a scheme to implement the Tribunal's decision.

❖ **Which are India's major river disputes?**

- **Cauvery dispute (Karnataka-Tamil Nadu):** India's southern states Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been feuding over the water usage of the Cauvery River since 1924.
 - During the British era, as per an agreement between the Madras Presidency and Mysore state, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were awarded 75% of surplus water, while Karnataka would get 23% and the remaining would be used by Kerala.

- Over time, with the increase in irrigation needs of Tamil Nadu, the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal allocated it 419 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) from the river basin. It further allotted 270 TMC to Karnataka, 30 TMC to Kerala and 7 TMC to Puducherry. With Karnataka refusing to release 134 TMC to Tamil Nadu from June to September, Tamil Nadu moved the Supreme Court seeking relief.
- In September 2016, the Supreme Court ordered Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs daily for 12 days, triggering protests in Karnataka. Finally, in February 2018, the apex court reduced Tamil Nadu's allocation to 177.25 TMC from 192 TMC, hiking Karnataka's allocation by 14.75 TMC.
- With the dispute resolved, the Tribunal was dissolved and both states are complying with the award. On September 19, 2022, Karnataka released 425 TMC to Tamil Nadu as opposed to its allocation of 177.25 TMC due to excess water flow.
- **Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal (Punjab-Haryana):** After the partition of Punjab in 1947, the rivers – Ravi and Beas which had a combined flow of 15.85 MAF (million acre feet) — was split as such – Rajasthan (8 MAF), undivided Punjab (7.2 MAF) and Jammu and Kashmir (0.65 MAF) respectively.
- After the 1966 reorganisation of Punjab resulted in the creation of Haryana, the new state was allocated 3.5 MAF per year; however Punjab sought to retain its share of 7.2 MAF (the volume allotted to undivided Punjab). After reassessment in 1981, Punjab was allotted 4.22 MAF, Haryana 3.5 MAF and Rajasthan 8.6 MAF.
- To implement this decision, the 214 km-long Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal was flagged in 1982 with 122 km to be constructed in Punjab and 92 km in Haryana. Moreover, a Tribunal was set up which awarded 5 MAF to Punjab and 3.83 MAF to Haryana of the SYL canal waters. However, the Punjab part of the project was stalled due to heavy opposition from Punjab, leading to militancy and the murders of Akali Dal chief Sant Harchand Singh Longowal (who agreed to the split) and the project's chief engineer M L Sekhri.
- Since then, Punjab has refused to share water with any other state as 79% of its ground water has been depleted due to its excessive farming of wheat and paddy (both needing high water supply).
- While Haryana has sought its rightful share of the rivers and completion of the SYL project, the Supreme Court has urged the Centre to arrange a meeting between Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann. The newly elected AAP government has signalled its willingness to resolve the issue with the Centre's intervention.
- **Polavaram project dispute (Andhra Pradesh-Telangana):** The Polavaram project was constructed in undivided Andhra Pradesh to direct 80 TMC of Godavari river waters to the Krishna river to share water with Karnataka and Maharashtra.
- Since the formation of Telangana in 2014, the project has been a bone of contention between the two States. While Andhra Pradesh has claimed the project is essential to irrigate its Godavari districts, Telangana has raised fears of backwaters flooding the Khammam district.
- Recently, on July 15 2022, Andhra CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu ordered an increase in the height of the upper cofferdam of Polavaram from 42.5 metres to 44 metres to withstand massive floods and increase its capacity.
- This led to an uproar in Telangana with Minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar alleging that the increase in dam height caused the inundation of the temple town of Bhadrachalam and several villages along the course of the Godavari river.
- Telangana has often urged the Centre to stall further construction on the Polavaram project stating that the project's Full Tank Level (FTL) of 45.7 metres will result in backwaters of 4 5.5 ft at Bhadrachalam – flooding Godavari's tributaries Pranahita, Sabari and Indravati.
- Apart from resolving water disputes, the Centre has also listed 111 inland rivers as National Waterways in The National Waterways Bill, 2015, empowering it to create laws on shipping and travel on the listed waterways.
- ❖ **State-level water issues**
- On a State level, each government forms laws for water management across its districts to regulate water usage by industries, set rules for water treatment, set water tariffs and manage sewage water generated. The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020 is the example of such an act which constitutes an authority to fix tariffs for all uses of water and set rules for the use & disposal of treated wastewater.
- Similarly, the Karnataka government passed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 2021 to provide rainwater harvesting structures to citizens, so as to reduce dependency on Cauvery or underground water, and also mitigate urban flooding. Some states like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have passed irrigation and water conservation laws to stop river pollution, specify limits on water supply for irrigating crops and penalize those who violate these norms.
- Though States manage rivers and prevent its pollution, the Centre also undertakes river-cleaning projects of India's major rivers - like the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). Under the Environment (Protection) Amendment Act (EPA), 2016, the NMCG was given a two tier management structure — Governing Council and Executive Committee — at National, State and district levels. The river Ganga originating from the Himalayan mountain range flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal before winding into the Bay of Bengal.



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monitoring, enhancing the river's bio-diversity, developing Ganga Gram (villages on Ganga banks) and raise public awareness.

- As of date, under Namami Gange, 98 sewage projects have been completed in the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan and 48 are under implementation.
- 70 ghats/crematoria projects are being constructed along the river banks, while 267 ghats/crematoria and kunds/ponds are under renovation. Collection of floating solid waste from the surface of the ghats and river surface and its disposal is being done at 11 locations in various states.
- 1072 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) were identified along the banks of the river in 2017 - of which 636 are complying to environmental norms, 110 are non-complying and 215 are self-closed. All 110 non-compliant GPIs have been issued closure notices by the Centre.
- Moreover, 1674 Gram Panchayats were found situated on the river banks and Rs. 578 Crores has been released to Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) for construction of toilets in these villages. Out of the targeted 15, 27,105 units, MoDWS has completed construction of 8, 53,397 toilets in five states - Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal.
- However, repeatedly several High Courts have pulled up the respective State governments over the pollution of the river and incompletion of the NMC projects under its purview. Recently, the Allahabad High Court expressed displeasure over the apathy of the government departments in making the river Ganga pollution free in Uttar Pradesh. It added that NMC had become a machine to disperse money and no one was serious about cleaning the river Ganga.

❖ **Local-level: Drinking water supply**

- On a local level, providing tapped water to all rural and urban households falls under the purview of the various civic bodies managed by the state governments. The right to clean drinking water has been read into the right to life under Article 21 of the constitution. Water has been deemed a fundamental resource and the Centre and States have been tasked to make policies to distribute water among people.
- The Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024, in collaboration with States and Union Territories (UTs). The scheme also aims to develop bulk water transfer facilities, treatment plants and a robust in-village water distribution network. With an outlay of Rs 3.60 lakh crore, the Centre has pledged a contribution of 100% funds for UTs without a legislature, 90% for North Eastern and Himalayan States/UTs and 50% for other states.
- As of September 27, 2022, 10,23,68,562 households (53.47%) in India have tap water connections. Since the launch of the scheme in 2019, 7,00,05,724 (44%) households have received new tap connections. States like Goa, Telangana and Haryana and UTs like Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have achieved 100% tap water connections. However large states like Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh have only 23.04% and 17.54% households which have tap water connections.

PRELIMS

1. **The Indian-made LCH 'Prachand' and its significance**

❖ **CONTEXT:** The indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand, meaning fierce, was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force at the Jodhpur airbase on Monday. The multi-role attack helicopter has been customised as per the requirements of the Indian armed forces to operate both in desert terrains and high-altitude sectors. The LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft). It is also capable of firing a range of air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles.

❖ **What is the LCH project?**

- The LCH project can be traced to the 1999 Kargil war when the armed forces felt the need for a dedicated platform capable of operating at high altitudes and delivering precision strikes as the existing attack choppers couldn't effectively hit targets.
- In October 2006, the government sanctioned the design and development of the LCH. The Indian Army joined the programme in December 2013. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) built four LCH prototypes flight-tested them with over 1,600 total flights logging 1,239 flight hours.
- The ground run was first carried out in February 2010 and the first prototype 'TD-1' took its maiden flight on March 29, 2010, as the crew carried out low-speed, low-altitude checks on the systems.
- After extensive flight testing in diverse terrains and weather conditions, the LCH received initial operation clearance on August 26, 2017. It was declared ready for production in February 2020. A year later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the LCH to the Indian Air Force.
- Earlier 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by PM Modi approved the procurement of 15 limited series production (LSP) variants at a cost of ₹3,887 crore — 10 for the IAF and five for the Indian Army.
- The Indian Army formally inducted its first Light Combat Helicopter on September 29, 2022.

❖ **What are the main features of LCH?**

- Powered by twin Shakti engines, a collaborative effort of the HAL and France's Safran company, the LCH is a 5.8-tonne class combat helicopter with potent ground attack and aerial combat capability.
- The helicopter can fly at a maximum speed of 288 kmph and has a combat radius of 500 km, which can go up to a service ceiling of 21,000 feet, making it ideal to operate in Siachen.
- It incorporates several stealth features such as reduced radar and infra-red signatures, crashworthy features for improved survivability, armoured-protection systems and night attack capability.

❖ **How will the LCH give an edge to the armed forces?**

- The induction of the LCH into the Air Force has been termed as a “big boost” to the combat prowess of the armed forces and a “potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF and the Army”.
 - The LCH helicopters can be deployed to assume air defence, anti-tank roles in high-altitude, counter-insurgency, and search and rescue operations, and are equipped with advanced technology which can be used to destroy the enemy’s air defence, as per HAL.
 - It can be deployed to perform Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), bunker busting operations, counter-insurgency operations in the jungle and urban areas and support the ground forces.
 - As per HAL, the Indian armed forces have an overall requirement of 160 LCH — 95 for Army and 65 for Air Force. The fleet of first four helicopters was inducted into the 143 Helicopter Unit ‘Dhanush’. The helicopters are likely to be deployed along the Line of Actual Control along with Apache choppers.
- 2. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said recently that measures under ‘Stage-1’ of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will be enforced in the NCR with immediate effect. The order came after Delhi’s AQI deteriorated to be in the ‘poor’ category on 5th October. Other parts of the NCR, including Gurgaon, Noida and Greater Noida, also recorded ‘poor’ air quality.**
 - ❖ **What is the Graded Response Action Plan?**
 - GRAP is a set of emergency measures that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once it reaches a certain threshold.
 - Stage 1 of GRAP is activated when the AQI is in the ‘poor’ category (201 to 300)
 - The second, third and fourth stages will be activated three days ahead of the AQI reaching the ‘very poor’ category (301 to 400), ‘severe’ category (401 to 450) and ‘severe +’ category (above 450) respectively.
 - For this, the CAQM is relying on air quality and meteorological forecasts by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
 - Measures being imposed under the previous categories will continue even when the subsequent category is activated, that is, if measures under Stage-2 are activated, measures under Stage-1 will continue to remain in place.
 - ❖ **How is the GRAP different this year?**
 - The CAQM revised the Graded Response Action Plan earlier 2022. The GRAP was first notified in January 2017 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. This was based on a plan that was submitted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in November 2016.
 - According to the notification, the task of implementing the GRAP fell on the now dissolved Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the NCR. From 2021 onwards, the GRAP is being implemented by the CAQM.
 - In the version of the GRAP that was notified in 2017, measures kicked in after pollution concentrations reached a certain level. This year, measures are pre-emptive and will kick in based on forecasts in an attempt to prevent the AQI from deteriorating further.
 - The older version of the GRAP was enforced based only on the concentration of PM2.5 and PM10. This year, GRAP is being enforced based on the AQI, which takes other pollutants also into account, such as ozone, sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen.
 - ❖ **What are the measures that will be enforced this year (2022)?**
 - Some of the measures in the revised GRAP are also different this year. For the first time, it specifies that State governments in the NCR may impose restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four wheelers under Stage-3, or when the AQI is likely to reach the ‘severe’ category.
 - In the ‘severe +’ category, GRAP imposes a ban on plying of four-wheelers in Delhi and NCR districts bordering Delhi, except for BS-VI vehicles and those plying for emergency or essential services. Under this category, there will also be a ban on the movement of Delhi registered, diesel-operated medium and heavy goods vehicles in Delhi, with exceptions for those carrying essential commodities or providing essential services.
 - Restrictions on some construction activities will also set in earlier in the revised GRAP. A ban on construction activities (except for those involving railways, projects of national security, hospitals, metro services, and linear public projects like highways, roads) will be imposed under the ‘severe’ category. In the previous plan, the construction ban was implemented only in the ‘severe +’ category.
 - Construction activities on linear public projects like highways, roads, flyovers, pipelines and power transmission, will be banned under the ‘severe +’ category this year.
 - ❖ **What are some other measures being considered?**
 - Under the ‘severe +’ category, State governments may consider additional emergency measures like the closure of schools, plying of vehicles on an odd-even basis, and decide on allowing public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home.
 - ❖ **What are citizens required to do?**
 - The revised GRAP also has a set of measures for the public to follow – under the ‘poor’ category, this includes keeping vehicle engines tuned, ensuring PUC certificates are updated and switching off vehicle engines at red lights. Under the ‘very poor’ category, it is suggested that citizens use public transport and replace air filters in their automobiles.
 - Under the ‘severe’ category, a recommendation is made to work from home if possible, and not use coal and wood for heating. Under the ‘severe +’ category, GRAP advises people with chronic diseases and children and the elderly to avoid outdoor activities.
 - ❖ **Who will implement and enforce the GRAP?**

- The CAQM has constituted a sub-committee for the operationalization of the GRAP. This body includes officials from the CAQM, member secretaries of pollution control boards of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, the Central Pollution Control Board, a scientist from the IMD and one from the IITM, and Dr T K Joshi, Health Advisor, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, Maulana Azad Medical College. The sub-committee is required to meet frequently to issue orders to invoke the GRAP.
- The orders and directions of the CAQM will prevail in case of any conflict between directions issued by the State governments and the CAQM.
- Measures under the different categories of the plan are to be enforced by the pollution control boards of the NCR states and the concerned departments and agencies, including the traffic police, the Transport Department and road owning and construction agencies.
- Actions under Stages II, III and IV will be invoked three days in advance of the AQI reaching the projected level
- ❖ **Stage 1 (AQI 'Poor' – 201 to 300)**
 - Stopping all construction and demolition activities with plot size of 500 square metres or more which have not been registered on dust mitigation monitoring portals
 - mechanised sweeping, water sprinkling on roads
 - enforcing guidelines on use of anti-smog guns at construction sites
 - enforcing ban on open burning of waste and PUC (pollution under control norms) for vehicles
 - DISCOMs to minimise power supply interruptions in NCR
 - Encourage offices to start unified commute for employees to reduce traffic
- ❖ **Stage 2 (AQI 'Very poor' – 301 to 400)**
 - Not allowing coal/firewood in tandoors at hotels
 - stopping use of diesel generator sets except for essential and emergency services (hospitals, railways, metro services, airports, water pumping stations, "projects of national importance")
 - enhance parking fees to discourage private transport
 - augment CNG/ electric bus and metro services by procuring additional fleet and increasing the frequency of service
- ❖ **Stage 3 (AQI 'Severe' – 401 to 450)**
 - Ban on construction and demolition activities except railway, metro, hospitals, sanitation projects etc, linear public projects like highways, roads, flyovers
 - Closure of industries that have PNG supply and are not running on approved fuels. In industrial areas that don't have PNG supply, industries not running on approved fuels will operate only for five days a week
 - State governments in NCR may impose restrictions on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel four wheelers
- ❖ **Stage 4 (AQI 'Severe +' – more than 450)**
 - Stop entry of truck traffic into Delhi (except for essentials, CNG and electric trucks)
 - Ban on plying of Delhi registered diesel medium and heavy goods vehicles in Delhi, except for essentials
 - Ban on plying of 4-wheeler diesel vehicles in Delhi and districts of NCR bordering Delhi, except BS-VI vehicles and vehicles used for essential or emergency services
 - State Governments may consider additional emergency measures like closure of schools, plying of vehicles on odd-even basis
 - NCR State governments to decide on allowing public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home
 - Ban C&D activities in linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers

3. **Nobel Prize in Literature 2022**

❖ **Context: The Nobel Prize for Literature 2022 has gone to French author Annie Ernaux.**

- Her seminal work 'The Years', translated by Alison L Strayer, was shortlisted for the Man Booker international prize.
- Her book on her illegal abortion in the 1960s, 'Happening' (first published in 2001) has also been in the limelight after abortion rights were curtailed in the US.
- Her 'A Girl's Story' (published in French in 2016), built on her own experiences at a children's camp, deals with the shaming an 18-year-old girl is subjected to for her sexuality.
- 'Getting Lost' (2022), which talks of her affair with a Russian diplomat – she was divorced, he was married – is a rare clear-eyed account of female desire.

Other awards and honours:

- Her works overall have received the French language prize and the Marguerite Yourcenar prize
- Publication of her almost complete works to date in the Quarto edition by Gallimard in 2011 (Ernaux is the first woman writer to be published in this series in her lifetime).
- In 2014 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Cergy-Pontoise.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q. What are the constitutional and legal provisions for resolution of inter-state water disputes and discuss the issues with inter-state water disputes?

Part 11 of the Constitution of India talks about the Relations Between the Union and The States. It has inscribed all the constitutional provisions regarding interstate and union-state relations and adequate provisions for their resolution. This part also authorised parliament and president to take adequate steps for the resolution of interstate disputes.

Constitutional provisions for the resolution of inter-state water disputes:

- Entry 17 of the State List deals with water, i.e., water supply, irrigation, canal, drainage, embankments, water storage and water power.
- Entry 56 of Union List empowers the Union Government for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys to the extent declared by Parliament to be expedient in the public interest.
- According to Article 262, in case of disputes relating to waters:
 - Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter-State River or river valley.
 - Parliament may, by law, provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint as mentioned above.
- Article 131: The original jurisdiction of the Supreme court.
 - As a federal court, the Supreme Court has the right to settle the disputes between the different units of the Indian Federation such as:
 - Between the Centre and one or more states and, Between the states but states can't use article 131 for resolution of interstate water disputes, if parliament has curtailed the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in this matter.

Legal provisions regarding resolution of inter-state water disputes:

As per Article 262, the Parliament has enacted the following:

- River Board Act, 1956: This empowered the GOI to establish Boards for Interstate Rivers and river valleys in consultation with State Governments. To date, no river board has been created.
- Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956: Provisions of the Act: In case, if a particular state or states approach to Union Government for the constitution of the tribunal.
 - Central Government should try to resolve the matter by consultation among the aggrieved states.
 - In case, if it does not work, then it may constitute the tribunal.
 - Note: Supreme Court shall not question the Award or formula given by tribunal but it can question the working of the tribunal.

Issue with interstate water dispute:

- Protracted proceedings and extreme delays in dispute resolution.
 - Delays are on account of no time limit for adjudication by a Tribunal, no upper age limit for the Chairman or the Members, work getting stalled due to occurrence of any vacancy and no time limit for publishing the report of the Tribunal.
 - For example, in the case of the Godavari water dispute, the request was made in 1962, but the tribunal was constituted in 1968 and the award was given in 1979 which was published in the Gazette in 1980.
- Opacity in the institutional framework and guidelines that define these proceedings; and ensuring compliance.
- The composition of the tribunal is not multidisciplinary and it consists of persons only from the judiciary.
- The absence of authoritative water data that is acceptable to all parties currently makes it difficult to even set up a baseline for adjudication.
- The shift in tribunals' approach, from deliberative to adversarial, aids extended litigation and politicisation of water-sharing disputes.
- The growing nexus between water and politics has transformed the disputes into turfs of vote bank politics.
 - This politicisation has also led to increasing defiance by states, extended litigations and subversion of resolution mechanisms.
 - For example, Cauvery water disputes become an issue of Kannadigas vs Tamilians.
- Too much discretion at too many stages of the process.
- Procedural complexities and multiple stakeholders' involvement: Surface water is controlled by Central Water Commission (CWC) and ground water by Central Ground Water Board of India (CGWB). Both bodies work independently and there is no common forum for common discussion with state governments on water management.
- India's complicated federal polity and its colonial legacy.

Measures can be taken:

- Bring Inter-state water disputes under interstate council constructed by president under article 263 and need for consensus-based decision making.
- States must be motivated (on line of power efficiency) for water use efficiency in every domain and water harvesting and water recharging to reduce the demand on river water and in situ water source.
- Intensive Afforestation in the river basin is required for long term water security.
- Need of a single water management agency for both ground and surface water on scientific basis and also for technical advice on union, river basin, state and district level for water conservation and water management.
- Tribunals must be fast track, technical and also have a verdict enforceable mechanism in a time bound manner.
- A central depository of water data is necessary for informed decision making.

India has just 4% of the world's fresh water — but 16% of the global population. It shows the scarcity of water in India. Its judicial use and scientific management in sine-qua-non in today's challenging situations. For this all the stakeholders including citizens of the state have a prominent role regarding justifiable use of water

MCQs

1. Consider the following statements:
 1. According to Article 262 of the Indian Constitution, the Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of interstate river water dispute.
 2. Article 262 empowers the President of India to set up an interstate river water dispute tribunal.

- Select the incorrect statement/s using the codes given below
- a) 1 only **b) 2 only** c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. With reference to Namami Gange, consider the following statements:
1. It aims for conservation of the Ganga and developments of ghats in various cities.
 2. It is a central sector scheme, with complete funding by the union government.
 3. It includes a comprehensive afforestation programme.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 1 and 3 only c) 2 and 3 only **d) All of the above**
3. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Ganga Council (NCRG):
1. It was constituted under the River Boards Act, 1956.
 2. The NCRG will have powers to issue directions and also to exercise the powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 3. It will be directly under the Environment Minister, who will chair it.
 4. National Ganga Council replaced the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- a) 1 and 3 only b) 2, 3 and 4 only **c) 2 and 4 only** d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
4. Consider the following statements regarding Jal Jeevan Mission.
1. It rains to provide piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
 2. It aims to provide 25 litres of tapped water per person per day to all households by 2024.
 3. Goa has become the first 'Har Ghar Jal State' to provide 100% household tap connections in rural areas.
 4. The Jal Shakti Ministry is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the scheme.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) Only 1 and 2 b) Only 1, 2 and 3 **c) Only 1, 3 and 4** d) Only 1 and 3
5. With reference to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), consider the following statements.
1. It was approved by the Delhi High Court in 2016.
 2. The plan includes action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year to tackle industrial, vehicular, and combustion emissions.
 3. The orders and directions to implement GARP of the Commission for Air Quality Management CAQM will prevail in case of any conflict between directions issued by the State governments and the CAQM.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 3 b) 2 and 3 **c) 3 only** d) 1, 2 and 3
6. "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2022" report has been published by which of the following organisation?
- a) IMF **b) World Bank** c) UNICEF d) WEF
7. Which of the following is correct about Indian Defence's Aircrafts and Helicopter?
1. Tejas is a multi-role combat aircraft.
 2. SARAS is India's first indigenous civilian aircraft.
 3. Lakshya is a pilotless target Aircraft.
 4. Prachand is an first indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopter
- Select the correct option/options given below:
- a) 1, 2 and 4 only b) 2, 3 and 4 only c) 1 and 4 only **d) All of the above**
8. The term 'moonlight' recently seen in news usually refers to which of the following?
- a) Having a second or side job**
b) Drug business
c) Exposing a scandal
d) Preserving nocturnal wildlife
9. 'Mission Karmayogi' often mentioned in news was launched by which of the following ministry?
- a) Ministry of Finance
b) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
d) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
10. With reference to Nobel Prize, consider the following statements;
1. The first woman to win the Nobel Prize was Marie Curie.
 2. Rabindranath Tagore was the first non-European and Indian to get a Nobel Prize in literature.
 3. All the Nobel Prizes are given in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3