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MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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THE HINDU Page 5

AHOBILAM TEMPLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Art & Culture)

Restrictions imposed on pilgrims visiting Ahobilam temple

A.D. Rangarajan
NANDYAL

The Forest Department and Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam at Ahobilam have imposed certain restrictions on visitors arriving at the shrine, which is composed of nine different temples, situated in the Nallamala forest.

The forest area covers the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve, which was declared a tiger reserve in 1983, extendING up to 3,727.82 sq km., including the core and buffer areas. The Ahobilam National Tiger Conservation Authority, constituted as per the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, by the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change, oversees the rare flora and fauna specific to the region. The forest area around the Pavana Narasimha temple is home to red sanders, leopards and deer. Five tigers also inhabit the area.

The restrictions have been imposed in the wake of the intense heatwave that can impact the movement of wild animals.

Further, overnight stay in the region has been prohibited given the likelihood of man-animal conflict. As this shrine is known for the conduct of animal sacrifice, the department has said such practices are explicitly prohibited.



Context: Recently, the Forest Department and **Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam (SLNSD) at Ahobilam** have implemented visitor restrictions due to the shrine's location within the Nallamala forest, housing nine distinct temples.

Ahobilam Temple

- **About**: It is located in the Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh and is counted among the **108 Vaishnava Divyadesams.**
- **Temples of Ahobilam**: The region is famous for two temples situated in Lower Ahobilam and Upper Ahobilam.
- **Mythological Significance**: According to local legend, Ahobilam is where Lord Narasimha, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, blessed Prahlada and slayed Hiranyakashipu.
- **Ahobilam Narasimha Temple:** This temple is the primary and oldest among the nine temples in Ahobilam.

Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR)

- **About:** It is the largest tiger reserve in India.
- **Declared**: Tiger reserve in 1983, NSTR covers 3,727.82 sq km, encompassing core and buffer areas.
- **Role of Ahobilam National Tiger Conservation Authority**: NTCA, formed under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, oversees rare flora and fauna, particularly around the Pavana Narasimha temple area, which is habitat to red sanders, leopards, deer, and five tigers.
- **Vegetation:** Tropical dry deciduous forests
- **Restrictions**: They are imposed due to the intense heatwave to ensure the safety of wild animals, including a ban on plastic usage, with designated deposition points at the Cheethal base camp.
- **Prohibition:** Overnight stays are prohibited to mitigate man-animal conflict, especially with nocturnal animal movements.
    - The department explicitly prohibits the practice of animal sacrifice at the shrine, acknowledging its potential impact on wildlife.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Front Page

FCRA ACT

(Syllabus GS Paper 2/3 – NGOs/Economy)



Home Ministry cancels registration of five NGOs for 'violation' of FCRA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

THE UNION Home Ministry has cancelled the registration of at least five non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) for alleged violation of various provisions, sources said Wednesday.

"With the cancellation of their FCRA registration, these NGOs will no longer be able to receive foreign contributions nor utilise the existing available funds," sources said.

The five NGOs are: Voluntary Health Association of India, CNI Synodical Board of Social Services, Indo-Global Social Service Society, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, and Evangelical Fellowship of India.

None of the NGOs were available for comment.

According to sources, the NGOs faced action for allegedly utilising funds for works that were not in their mandate. The NGOs violated the laws by being involved in activities that are contrary to the provisions of the FCRA, they said.

The Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), set up in 1970, is a federation of 27 State Voluntary Health Associations, linking more than 4,500 health and development institutions across the country, according to its website.

The Synodical Board of Social Services is the development and justice board of the Church of North India (CNI). "CNI SBSS was formed as a response of the Church to the whole question of poverty and related social justice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Context: The Union Home Ministry recently cancelled the registration of at least five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) for alleged violation of various provisions.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022

- **Threshold limit Increased:** Any person receiving a foreign contribution over Rs. 1 Lakh in a financial year from any of his relatives shall inform the Central Government in within 30 days from the date of receipt of such contribution.
  - (The FCRA Amendment Rules 2022 has increased the limit to Rs. 10 Lakh from the existing limit of Rs. 1 Lakh)
- **Time Limit increased:** The time limit to intimate the receipt of a foreign contribution from relatives to the Central Government is increased to 3 months from the existing time limit of 30 days.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

- **About**: Regulates the receiving and use of foreign contributions by individuals and corporations established in India. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 has come into effect from 2011.
- **Objectives:** The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic.
- **Extend to**: It extends to the whole of India.
- **FCRA registration granted to NGO:**
  - **Apply online:** NGOs that want to receive foreign funds must apply online in a prescribed format with the required documentation.
  - **Inquiry and process of application:** Following the application by the NGO, the MHA makes inquiries through the Intelligence Bureau into the antecedents of the applicant, and accordingly processes the application.
  - **Should not involve in illegal activity:** Under the FCRA, the applicant should not be fictitious or benami; and should not have been prosecuted or convicted for indulging in activities aimed at conversion through inducement or force, either directly or indirectly, from one religious' faith to another.
- **Validity:** Once granted, FCRA registration is valid for five years.
- **Renewal:** NGOs are expected to apply for renewal within six months of the date of expiry of registration.
- **Expiry:** In case of failure to apply for renewal, the registration is deemed to have expired, and the NGO is no longer entitled to receive foreign funds or utilise its existing funds without permission from the ministry.

TIMES OF INDIA

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LOK ADALAT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)

HC defines limits of Lok Adalat's powers

'It Can't Admit Plea Requiring Judicial Order'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



iStock

The role of a judicial officer presiding over a Lok Adalat is only that of a conciliator, the Karnataka high court said

Bengaluru: Lok Adalat cannot entertain any applications where judicial orders are required as proceedings before it are not judicial in nature, the Kalaburagi bench of Karnataka high court recently ruled.

"It may be a fact that a judicial officer presides over Lok Adalat as a conciliator along with an advocate-conciliator. But such a judicial officer is not entitled to discharge the job of a 'judge' before Lok Adalat: his role is only that of a conciliator," Justice V Shrishananda said in his order, while allowing a petition filed by one Pooja, 25, a resident of Karnataka's Vijayapura district.

She had challenged an Oct 2007 compromise agreement passed by Sindagi taluk legal authority and the execution proceedings pending before the local judicial magistrate first class court since 2018.

When Pooja was a minor, her grandfather Gunderao was representing her in a suit over the division of a property. The Lok Adalat, comprising the Sindagi civil judge (senior division) and JMFC as conciliator no. 1 and the member-secretary of the taluk legal services committee as conciliator no. 2, passed a compromise decree under order 23, rule 3, of Code of Civil Procedure (CPC). According to order 23, when a compromise agreement is the basis of a court decree, the legality of the same cannot be questioned.

In 2018, Pooja received a notice in proceedings pertaining to the execution of the compromise decree, which she challenged in HC. Justice Shrishananda noted that Lok Adalat is not a judicial forum. "It is a settled principle of law that the petition filed under order 23, rule 3 of CPC is to be accepted by the court after entering satisfaction. Such a power is not available to conciliators who preside over Lok Adalat," the judge said, setting aside the decree passed by it. HC directed Sindagi court to dispose of the suit by the end of 2024.

Entitled to ₹3cr prize: Chess champ's plea

Gujarat high court has sought a response from the state govt after a visually impaired chess champion filed a petition alleging that he was not awarded Rs 3 crore cash reward he was entitled to for winning two gold medals in an international championship, reports **Saeed Khan.**

Advocate Keyur Gandhi informed the court that Darpan Inani, 25, entitled to a Rs 3crore reward, he has only been paid Rs 40 lakh.

'Passed' after 13 yrs, student to get ₹5L

Orissa HC has directed Sambalpur University to pay Rs 5 lakh compensation to a student to affirm that he is a graduate, 13 years after declaring that he failed BCom, reports **Lalmohan Patnaik.**

Bibhuti Bhusan Barik had taken his +3 commerce exam in 1999 but failed in English. While he reappeared for his exam in 2001 — and passed — he was shown as "absent" in English and commercial law. Barik was declared passed in 2012.

Context: Lok Adalat can- not entertain any applications where judicial orders are required as proceedings before it are not judicial, the Kalaburagi bench of Karnataka High Court recently ruled.

Lok Adalat

- **Meaning:** In literal meaning, it is **'People's Court'**. It is a forum where the cases (or disputes) which are pending in a court or which are at pre-litigation stage (not yet brought before a court) are **compromised or settled** amicably.
- **Principle:** This system is based on Gandhian principles.
- **A type of:** Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system.
- **First Lok Adalat camp:** Organised in Gujarat in 1982.
- **Statutory Status:** By the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.**
- **Output/Result of the proceeding:** Settlement and hence no victory and no defeat and, thus, no enmity.
- **Member:** Chairman and two members for providing a compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for conciliation and settlement of cases relating to Public Utility Services like transport, postal, telegraph etc.
- **Jurisdiction:** Lok Adalats can deal with cases pending before a court and also with disputes at the **pre-litigation stage**.
  - The **offences which are non-compoundable** under any law fall **outside the purview** of the Lok Adalat.

Advantages of Lok Adalats (ADR) Mechanism:

- Less Time Consuming.
- Cost effective method.
- It is free from technicalities of courts.
- People are free to express themselves without any fear of court of law.
- Efficient way to prevent conflict and restore relationship between parties.
- It preserves the best interest of the parties.

INDIA TODAY Apr 3

MOTHER OF DRAGONS COMET

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

'Mother of Dragons' comet visible in the skies. All you need to know

Context: Recently, astronomers have spotted the "Mother of Dragons," a rare comet with former horns, now visible in the Northern Hemisphere after dusk.

Mother of Dragons Comet

- **About:** The Mother of Dragons comet is officially designated as Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks and falls under the category of 'Halley-type' comets due to its orbital characteristics.
- **Orbital Features**: With an orbital period of approximately 71 years and a nucleus about 30 km wide, it follows a trajectory that brings it relatively close to Earth during specific intervals.
- **Composition**: Comprised of a mixture of ice, dust, and rocky material, the comet undergoes dramatic changes as it approaches the Sun, with heat causing the solid ice within to sublimate into gas.
- **Classification and Orbital Influence**: Classified as a Jupiter-family comet, its orbit is significantly affected by the gravitational pull of the giant planet Jupiter, which influences its trajectory and periodicity.
- **Visibility and Close Approach**: Typically visible to observers on Earth during its close approach, the Mother of Dragons comet reaches perihelion, its closest point to the Sun, around the orbit of Mars. Its closest approach to Earth is anticipated in June 2024.

Comets

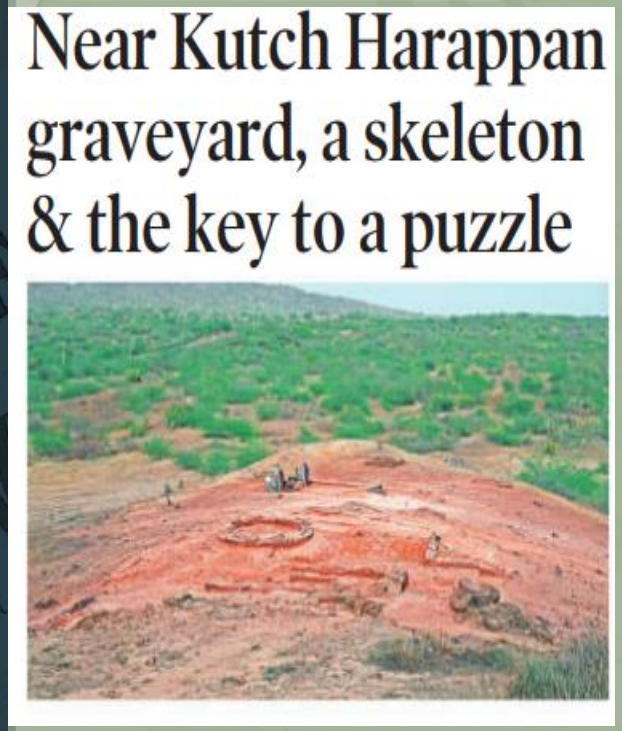
- **About**: These are ancient cosmic icebergs, dating back approximately 4.6 billion years, coinciding with the formation of the Solar System.
- **Composition**: Comets are primarily composed of dust and ice, with the ice transitioning from solid to gas as the comet approaches the warmth of the Sun.
- **Solar System Formation**: They formed concurrently with the Sun, Earth, and other celestial bodies, offering valuable insights into the early stages of our Solar System's evolution.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Front Page

PADTA BET

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – History)



Context: Recently excavated from a hillock known as Padta Bet, a skeleton, pottery artifacts, and animal bones indicate a 5,200-year-old Harappan settlement, situated 1.5 km from the Early Harappan necropolis of Juna Khatiya.

Padta Bet

- **Discovery**: Within the four-hectare area of Padta Bet, researchers unearthed two distinct localities during excavation.
- **Locality 2 Artefacts**: Locality 2 yielded artefacts spanning the Early, Mature, and Late Harappan eras, covering a timeline from 3,200 BC to 1700 BC.
- **Locality 1 Artefacts**: Artefacts from Locality 1 predominantly belong to the Mature and Late Harappan eras.
- **Significance**: The discovery of a skeleton, alongside pottery artefacts and animal bones, provides compelling evidence of a 5,200-year-old Harappan settlement at Padta Bet.
- **Proximity to Juna Khatiya**: Padta Bet, located 1.5 km from Juna Khatiya, an Early Harappan necropolis, supports the theory of the graveyard serving multiple smaller settlements.
- **Strengthening the Theory:** This latest find strengthens the hypothesis that Juna Khatiya may have functioned as a communal burial ground for several nearby Harappan settlements.

Harrapan Civilization

- **About**: The civilization is named Harappan because Dayaram Sahni first excavated its site in 1921.
- Harappan civilization surpassed the sizes of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia civilizations.
- **Bordered by**:
  - The northernmost site of the civilization is Manda (Jammu-Kashmir).
  - The southernmost site is Daimabad (Maharashtra).
  - The easternmost site is Alamgirpur (Uttar Pradesh).
  - The westernmost site is Sutkagendor (Pakistan-Iran border).
- **Main Crops**: Two types of Wheat and Barley. Evidence of cultivation of rice in Lothal and Rangpur (Gujarat) only.
- **Other Crops**: Dates, mustard, sesamum, cotton, rai, peas etc.
  - First to produce cotton in the world so Greeks called them Sindon.

ETCD

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)



The stir in exchange-traded rupee derivatives market

Exchange-traded currency derivatives (ETCDs) have seen average daily trading volumes on dollar/rupee futures touch $2.5 billion from $142 million in 2008 when first introduced, making this an important segment for India's forex markets. We look at the concerns over the RBI's rule on underlying exposure which comes into effect on Friday

$100 million
At the heart of the matter is whether currency contracts below that amount need an underlying exposure

₹4.13 trillion
Average daily turnover in currency futures in FY23, up from ₹102.9 billion in 2017, as per NSE data

₹2 lakh
Penalty under FEMA if the sum of the contravention is not ascertainable; else, three times that sum

● What are exchange-traded currency derivatives?

THEY ARE FINANCIAL contracts that allow traders and investors to speculate on the future price movements of various currency pairs. These derivatives are traded on exchanges, and their value is based on the underlying currency exchange rate. They help companies manage their currency risks by hedging against adverse movements in exchange rates and also offer the potential for traders to profit from anticipated movements in exchange rates. The ETCD market is highly liquid, and offers a transparent price discovery mechanism. ETCDs have lower margin requirements compared to other derivative products and are also cheaper. Brokers and traders use the segment to punt on the dollar-rupee futures contracts.

● What's the present controversy?

THOUGH THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has not materially changed its stance on ETCD nor asked brokerages for proof of their clients' underlying forex exposure, the markets are nervous. That's because the RBI had said in January that from April 5, exchanges may offer forex derivative contracts involving the rupee to users "for the purpose of hedging contracted exposure." The rule was reiterated by stock exchanges on Monday, following concerns raised by brokers about its impact on volumes. A day later, some brokers asked their clients to submit such proof of underlying exposure if they wanted to hold their existing positions beyond April 4. A Reuters report, however, quoted sources to say that these brokerages have done so of their own volition. The RBI has not made any official comment so far.

● Why are markets still nervous?

TILL NOW, USERS having positions up to $100 million each in any ETCD contract involving the rupee did not need to have an underlying position. The RBI rule along with a clarificatory mail last month changed that. Brokers fear that proprietary traders and individual investors, accounting for over 75% of the volume, will not be able to meet this rule. Many market participants say there could be more than 90% fall in volumes, indicating that the market is practically over, at least for the time being. Others say liquidity will dry up significantly and the small and medium sized firms — the hedgers — will lose access to this risk management tool. But sources aware of the RBI's thinking say small clients typically use the forward market via banks to hedge their currency exposures and always have an underlying position.

● Will it impact large entities?

CORPORATES ACCOUNTED FOR 3.9% of the ETCD turnover based on notional turnover in February while foreign investors contributed 6.2%, as per data from the National Stock Exchange. So the impact will be minimal for them. Hedging activity for foreign investors may shift to the local over-the-counter and non-deliverable forward markets. Smaller entities, which have an overwhelming exposure, will not take fresh positions and will square off existing positions. The move raises concerns about the relevance of exchanges as platforms for hedging currency risk if algorithmic, proprietary and individual traders are absent.

● What explains the new rule

THE RULE ALIGNS with the RBI's broader foreign exchange management policy that has see it tamp down on swings in the rupee in the run up to the inclusion of India's bond markets in global indexes from June. The rupee has been one of the least volatile currencies among emerging market currencies globally. At the heart of the matte is whether rupee-based currenc contracts below $100 million traded on the exchanges need a underlying exposure.

● Onus on brokers & penalty provisions

THE RBI'S RESPONSE to the Commodity Participants Association of India on March 28 said any user taking part in ETCD without an underlying contracte exposure would stand foul of provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). This could involve penalt of three times the sum of the contravention, or ₹2 lakh if the amount was unascertainable. From April 5, the onus would be on the brokers if the client is in contravention of FEMA. Brokers are worried as most retail investors either don't hold any underlying contracted exposure or, if they do, it would be almost impossible to ascertain this.

financialexp.epapr.in

New Delhi

Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not materially changed its stance on exchange-traded rupee derivatives and neither has it asked brokerages for proof of their clients' underlying forex exposure

Exchange-Traded Currency Derivatives

- **About:** These are financial contracts enabling speculation on future price movements of currency pairs, traded on exchanges, and based on underlying currency exchange rates.
- **Risk Management**: They aid companies in managing currency risks by hedging against adverse exchange rate movements.
- **Profit Potential**: ETCDs offer traders the potential to profit from anticipated movements in exchange rates.
- **Market Characteristics**: The ETCD market is highly liquid with transparent price discovery mechanisms.
- **Cost Efficiency**: ETCDs have lower margin requirements and are cheaper compared to other derivative products.
- **Usage in Trading**: Brokers and traders utilize ETCDs to speculate on dollar-rupee futures contracts.

Present Controversy Surrounding Forex Derivative Contracts

- **RBI's Unchanged Stance**: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has not materially altered its stance on External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) Trade Credit Derivatives (ETCD) nor requested proof of underlying forex exposure from brokerages.
- **Concerns Raised by Brokers**: Brokers have raised concerns about the impact of RBI's announcement in January regarding forex derivative contracts.
- **Brokerages' Perspective:** According to a Reuters report, brokerages claim to have implemented this requirement voluntarily for hedging purposes, particularly involving the rupee.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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RING OF FIRE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 – Geography)

RING OF FIRE

Taiwan is in a seismically active zone ringing the Pacific. Most of the world's earthquakes happen in this Ring

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

NINE people were killed and more than 900 injured after Taiwan was hit by the biggest earthquake in at least 25 years on Wednesday morning. Taiwan's earthquake monitoring agency said the magnitude of the quake was 7.2; the US Geological Survey (USGS) put it at 7.4.

The epicentre of the quake was 18 kilometres south-southwest of Hualien County in eastern Taiwan. Multiple aftershocks were experienced, one of which was of 6.5 magnitude, USGS said.

Taiwan lies on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where 90% of the world's earthquakes take place. The island and its surrounding waters have registered about 2,000 earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or greater since 1980, and more than 100 earthquakes of magnitude more than 5.5, according to the USGS.

What is the Ring of Fire?

The Ring of Fire is essentially a string of hundreds of volcanoes and earthquake-sites that runs along the fringes of the Pacific Ocean. The horseshoe-shaped ring is nearly 40,250 km long, and traces the meeting points of many tectonic plates, including the Eurasian, North American, Juan de Fuca, Cocos, Caribbean, Nazca, Antarctic, Indian, Australian, Philippine, and other smaller plates that encircle the large Pacific Plate.

The Ring of Fire runs through Pacific coast countries including the US, Indonesia, Mexico, Japan, Canada, Guatemala, Russia, Chile, Peru, and the Philippines.

Why is the Ring of Fire vulnerable to earthquakes?



The earthquakes are triggered as tectonic plates constantly slide past, collide with, or move above or below each other along the ring. The rough edges of the plates get stuck to each other, while the rest of the plate keeps moving. An earthquake occurs when the plate has moved far enough and the edges get unstuck along one of the faults.

The quakes in Taiwan are due to the interaction of two tectonic plates — the Philippine Sea Plate and the Eurasian Plate.

Why are there so many volcanoes in the Ring of Fire?

The volcanoes in the Ring of Fire are also due to the movement of tectonic plates. Many of these volcanoes have been formed through a process known as subduction, which takes place when two plates collide, and the heavier plate is shoved under another, creating a deep trench.

"Basically, when a 'downgoing' oceanic plate [like the Pacific Plate] is shoved into a hotter mantle plate, it heats up, volatile elements mix, and this produces the magma. The magma then rises up through the overlying plate and spurts out at the surface," which leads to the formation of volcanoes, according to a report by DW.

Most of the subduction zones on the planet are located in the Ring of Fire.

Context: Taiwan is in a seismically active zone ringing the Pacific. Most of the world's earthquakes happen in this Ring.

Ring of Fire

- **About:** It is a vast geological phenomenon comprising hundreds of volcanoes and earthquake-prone areas encircling the Pacific Ocean.
- **Geographical Extent**: This horseshoe-shaped ring spans nearly 40,250 km and encompasses the meeting points of various tectonic plates, such as the Eurasian, North American, Juan de Fuca, and others.
- **Tectonic Plate Interaction**: The Ring of Fire is formed due to the convergence and interaction of numerous tectonic plates, including smaller ones like the Caribbean, Nazca, and Indian plates, around the larger Pacific Plate.
- **Countries Along the Ring**: Notable Pacific coast countries, including the US, Indonesia, Mexico, Japan, Canada, Guatemala, Russia, Chile, Peru, and the Philippines, are traversed by the Ring of Fire.

Vulnerability to Earthquakes in the Ring of Fire

- **Constant Plate Movement:** The earthquakes are triggered as tectonic plates constantly slide past, collide with, or move above or below each other along the ring.
- **Taiwan's Tectonic Interaction:** Quakes in Taiwan result from the interaction of two tectonic plates—the Philippine Sea Plate and the Eurasian Plate.
- **Pacific Ocean Dynamics**: The rough edges of the plates within the Ring of Fire get stuck to each other, leading to earthquakes when they become unstuck along faults.

Why are there so many volcanoes in the Ring of Fire?

- **Subduction Zone Formation**: Many volcanoes in the Ring of Fire are formed through subduction, where one tectonic plate is shoved under another, creating deep trenches.
- **Magma Generation**: Subduction of oceanic plates into hotter mantle plates generates magma, which rises to the surface, forming volcanoes.
- **Prevalence of Subduction Zones**: Most subduction zones, crucial for volcano formation, are concentrated within the Ring of Fire.

THE HINDU Page 12

SHRIMP FARMING

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Economy)

India rejects report on abusive conditions at shrimp hatcheries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



India is one of the world's largest shrimp exporters.

India, the biggest supplier of shrimp, U.S.'s favourite seafood, has strongly refuted allegations of human rights and environmental abuses raised by a Chicago-based human rights group. Top Commerce Ministry officials will meet seafood exporters on Thursday to discuss efforts to scotch such attempts at maligning its global reputation.

In 2022-23, India's seafood exports stood at $8.09 billion, or ₹64,000 crore, and shrimps accounted for a bulk of these exports at $5.6 billion. India has emerged as one of the world's largest shrimp exporters and its share in the U.S. market has risen from 21%, or $1.3 billion, to 40% in 2022-23, with shipments worth $2.4 billion, far ahead of rivals such as Thailand, China, Vietnam, and Ecuador.

Terming a report from Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL) that alleges "dangerous and abusive" working conditions in some shrimp hatcheries, growing ponds, and peeling sheds, as baseless, a senior official asserted that the entire value chain for India's shrimp exports is certified by the Marine Products Export Development Authority and there is no scope for such concerns about overseas shipments. "This seems to be driven by vested interests aimed at maligning the reputation of our aquaculture sector and its products in global markets," he noted.

About a lakh shrimp farms in Andhra Pradesh alone account for almost 70% of India's shrimp output. Women are reckoned to account for 70% of the eight million-odd jobs in the sector, including two lakh in hatcheries and aquaculture farms, and the rest in processing and freezing units.

The Ministry is likely to advise exporters to commission independent studies on the working conditions at shrimp farms to dispel the concerns in major markets like the U.S. and the EU.

It has also asked the Andhra Pradesh government to look into the allegations made in the CAL report.

Context: Recently, India, the largest supplier of shrimp, rebutted claims of human rights and environmental abuses by a Chicago-based human rights group, as top Commerce Ministry officials convene with seafood exporters to address efforts in safeguarding its global reputation.

Shrimp Farming

- **About:** It is an aquaculture business that exists in either a marine or freshwater environment, producing shrimp or prawns for human consumption.
- **Soil type:** Usually, clay or loam-based soil containing more than 90% clay and pH between 6.5-8.5 is preferable
- **Suitable species:** Penaeus indicus and tiger prawn P. monodon.
- **Geographical Distribution**: West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, and Gujarat.
- **Significant Contribution**: About a lakh shrimp farms in Andhra Pradesh alone contribute to almost 70% of India's shrimp output.
- **Female Workforce Dominance**: Women are estimated to hold 70% of the eight million jobs in the sector, spanning hatcheries, aquaculture farms, processing, and freezing units.

SAIME Initiative

- **About:** It is a community-based pilot project initiated in West Bengal.
- **Full form**: Sustainable Aquaculture through Integrative Mangrove Ecosystems
- **Established**: 2019
- **Aim:** To integrate stakeholders from various sectors including government departments, academia, and research institutes.
- **Partners**: SAIME is conceived by NEWS (Nature Environment & Wildlife Society) along with Global Nature Fund (GNF), Naturland Bangladesh, and Environment and Development Society (BEDS).

TIMES OF INDIA Page 1

OVERLAP OF JURISDICTION ON ALCOHOL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 – Polity)



Justice Nagarathna set to test father's ruling in industrial alcohol case

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Justice **B V Nagarathna**, as part of Supreme Court's nine-judge bench engaged in distinguishing 'industrial alcohol' from 'intoxicating liquor' to decide a Centre-state tussle on a revenue-rich issue, will be testing the correctness of a 1989 ruling by a seven-judge bench that included her father and then CJI E S Venkataramiah.

Justice Nagarathna will become the first woman CJI in 2027. It will also mark the first time a daughter has followed her father to head the country's judiciary. She will be CJI for 37 days from Sept 24 to Oct 29, 2027. Her father was CJI for six months, from June 19 to Nov 17, 1989.

IN THE COURTS

- High courts should not interfere with a trial court's acquittal order unless there is perversity of fact and law, says SC | P 7
- Lok Adalats do not have power to function as courts, can't entertain applications where judicial orders are required: K'taka HC | P 11

►Mother raw material, P 8

Context: Recently, Justice BV Nagarathna, as part of the Supreme Court's nine-judge bench, is distinguishing 'industrial alcohol' from 'intoxicating liquor' to resolve a revenue-rich dispute, potentially challenging a 1989 ruling by a seven-judge bench that included her father and then CJIES Venkataramiah.

Overlap of Jurisdiction of Centre, States on Alcohol

- **Empowerment of States:** Entry 8 of List II grants states authority to control and regulate intoxicating liquors, including their production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase, and sale.
- **Conflict with Industrial Development and Regulation Act**: The Act, 1951, and its 2016 amendment grant the Centre the power to regulate industries involved in producing, supplying, distributing, and engaging in trade and commerce of industrial alcohol.
- **Parliament's Authority**: Under Entry 52 of List I, Parliament can enact laws to regulate any industry in the public interest, potentially overlapping with state regulations on intoxicating liquors.

Seventh Schedule: Distributing Legislative Powers

- **Union List (List 1)**: Only the central government can legislate on subjects such as defence, foreign affairs, currency, atomic energy, railways, shipping, etc.
- **State List (List 2)**: Only the state governments can legislate on subjects such as police, public health, agriculture, local government, land, etc.
- **Concurrent List (List 3)**: Both central and state governments can legislate on subjects such as criminal law, marriage and divorce, education, etc.
  - In conflicts between central and state laws on concurrent list subjects, the central law prevails.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Sci and Tech)

Nuclear power is key to development, says study

India must prioritise investment in this energy sector and expand related infrastructure if it is to be on track to become developed nation by 2047 and achieve net zero by 2070, says IIM-A report

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI



Larger goals: Currently, nuclear energy makes up only 1.6% of India's energy mix. FILE PHOTO

For India to be a developed country by 2047 and be on track to achieve net zero — or effectively zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2070 — it must significantly prioritise investments in nuclear energy and expand related infrastructure, says a study by academics at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

The results of the study, funded by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, were made public on Wednesday. Currently, nuclear energy makes up only 1.6% of India's energy mix.

The report postulates several scenarios. These are a high-, medium-, and low-economic growth scenario, a scenario where there is a "thrust" on nuclear energy, another with a thrust on expanding fossil fuel use along with employing carbon capture and storage, a scenario with an emphasis on renewable energy (solar, wind), and finally one that combines all of these.

The authors used mathematical models to estimate what proportion of various sources of energy would be required by 2030 and 2050 to arrive at an ideal scenario of net zero emissions by 2070. This was further tempered by scenarios of India's population achieving a human development index like Western European countries and the price of access to energy going down.

The best case, their calculations showed, were where emissions in 2070 fell to 0.55 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide ("net zero" scenario). This translated to nuclear power rising five-fold from today's levels to 30 GW (gigawatt) by 2030 and 265 GW by 2050. To put in perspective, it means nuclear power contributing 4% of India's total energy by 2030 and sharply rising to 30% by 2050. In the same scenario, the share of solar power falls from 42% in 2030 to 30% in 2050.

Uranium availability

Currently, figures from the Central Electricity Authority say solar energy accounts for 16% of India's installed generation capacity and coal 49%. To achieve these idealistic figures for nuclear energy would require a doubling of investments as well as the assumption that uranium, a critical fuel but restricted by international embargo, is available in necessary quantities.

The authors, led by Professor Amit Garg of IIM, Ahmedabad, said at a press conference that there was no "silver bullet" to achieve net zero and "myriad technologies needed to coexist" in India's energy basket.

Coal would likely be the "backbone" of the Indian energy system and if the country has to phase down coal in the next three decades, it would need to build adequate infrastructure for alternative sources such as nuclear power, in addition to flexible grid infrastructure and storage to support the integration of renewable energy.

Overall, India would need close to ₹150-200 lakh crore between 2020-2070 to finance these transitions, the report added.

Context: A recent study by academics at the Indian Institute of Management emphasizes that for India to attain developed country status by 2047 and align with net zero carbon emissions by 2070, it must heavily prioritize investments in nuclear energy and expand associated infrastructure.

Nuclear Energy

- **About**: It is the energy stored in the nucleus of an atom. It can be used to produce electricity. But, before it can used, it must be released.
- **Global**: Nuclear energy accounts for approximately 10% of global electricity production, generated by around 440 power reactors.
    - Nuclear energy stands as the second-largest contributor to low-carbon power worldwide, comprising 26% of the total in 2020.
- **In India:** Nuclear power ranks as the fifth-largest electricity source, following thermal, hydroelectric, and renewable energy sources.
    - India currently operates 22 nuclear reactors situated within 7 nuclear power plants, boasting an aggregate installed capacity of 6780 MW.
    - Nuclear energy can help India meet the INDC target under the Paris Climate Treaty.
- **Nuclear Fusion**: In fusion, nuclei of two lighter elements are made to fuse together to form the nucleus of a heavier atom.
- **Best Example**: It is the same nuclear process that powers the Sun and other stars.
- **Nuclear Fission**: It occurs when a neutron slams into a larger atom, forcing it to excite and split into two smaller atoms, known as fission products. Additional neutrons are also released that can initiate a chain reaction.
- **Result**: When each atom splits, a tremendous amount of energy is released.
- **Best Example**: Nuclear power reactors where uranium and plutonium are most commonly used because they are easy to initiate and control.

Uranium

- **About:** It is a silvery-grey metal in the actinide series of the periodic table.
- **Form**: Uranium is an extremely heavy metal.
- Uranium in India: Uranium **deposits in India are primarily found** in crystalline rocks.
    - Jharkhand state holds 70% of the country's uranium reserves.
- **Major uranium deposits occur**: Singhbhum and Hazaribagh districts of Jharkhand, Gaya district of Bihar, and Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Total reserves of uranium in India:** Amount to 30,480 tonnes.

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