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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

PARTICIPATORY NOTES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

GIFT For P-notes: Key Bottleneck Removed

Tax benefit for P-notes backed by debt and hybrid instruments

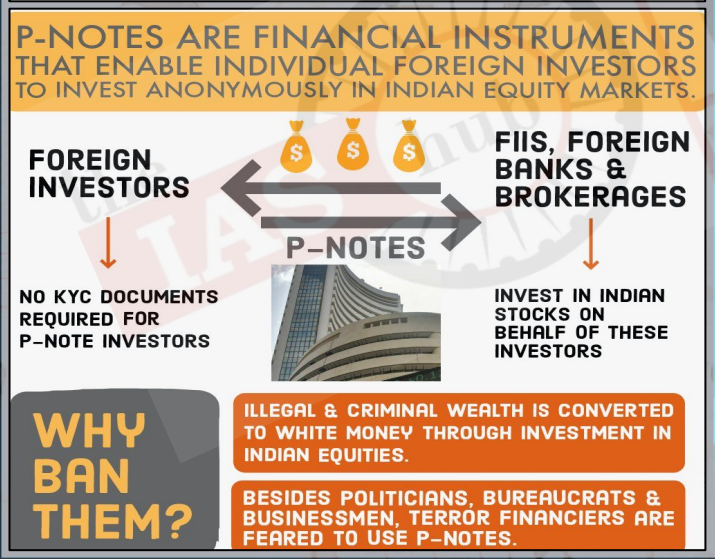
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New Delhi: Offshore derivative investments (ODIs), including participatory notes or P-notes, received a boost in the amended Finance Bill with the government removing a key tax bottleneck for such instruments issued in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). With this, P-notes backed by debt and hybrid instruments will get tax benefits as the government looks to boost participation of foreign investors in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

ODIs such as P-notes are an indirect route of investing in India for foreign funds that do not want to register with local authorities. In a P-note transaction, a bank, broker or custodian allowed to issue these derivatives buys the securities that the investor desires and issues P-notes against them.

Govt looking to boost participation of foreign investors in IFSC

Rider in Original Finance Bill ▸▸ 11



Context: Offshore derivative investments (ODIs), including participatory notes or P-notes, received a boost in the amended Finance Bill with the government removing a key tax bottleneck for such instruments issued in the **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).**

- With this, P-notes backed by debt and hybrid instruments will get tax benefits as the government looks to boost participation of foreign investors in the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).**

Participatory Notes

- **About**: These are financial instruments that **allow people or hedge funds to invest in Indian shares and stocks** without having to be registered with the SEBI.
- **ODIs**: It is a **member of Offshore Derivative investments (ODIs) group** that helps a hedge fund to invest in stocks outside their country.
  - These ODIs have Indian stocks as assets under their names.
- **Issuing Authority**: Participatory notes are issued by brokers and foreign institutional investors (FII) registered with **SEBI**.
  - The investment is made **on behalf of these foreign investors** by the already registered brokers in India.
  - The brokers that issue these notes or trades in Indian securities have to **mandatorily report their PN issuance status to SEBI** for each quarter.
  - These notes allow foreign high networth individuals, hedge funds and other investors to put money in Indian markets without being registered with SEBI, thus making their participation easy and smooth.
- **Features of Participatory Notes:**
  - Overseas investors can invest in India **without registering with SEBI.**
  - **Identity of investor is not disclosed** with SEBI; however FIIs have to get registered with SEBI.
  - Investments are for a **short term.**
  - The dividends and capital gains **belong to investors.**
  - Sudden withdrawal by FIIs causes huge **volatility in stock markets.**
  - Instrument to **attract money** in the capital market which helps in the growth of the economy.
  - **Easily traded** overseas through endorsement and delivery.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

CAPITAL GAINS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Govt to scrap LTCG tax benefits on debt MFs

- STT ON SELLING OPTIONS RAISED
- RELIEF FOR TAXPAYERS WITH INCOME SLIGHTLY ABOVE ₹7 LAKH
- NO RESPITE GIVEN FOR START-UPS FROM ANGEL TAX

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 24 March

The Finance Bill, 2023, passed on Friday in the Lok Sabha without discussion, is set to tax investors heavily from April 1.

The Bill, which gives effect to the tax proposals for FY24, was cleared amid the Opposition demanding a probe into the allegations against the Adani group.

A total of 64 amendments were proposed. These included the one that seeks withdrawing long-term capital gains tax benefits on certain categories of debt mutual funds and increasing securities transaction tax (STT) on selling options and futures contracts.

"The Finance Bill had brought in 10 main provisions helpful for the middle class and community as a whole and ease of doing business. The 11 new ones brought in now with stakeholder consultation have helped to improve the Bill," said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting it.

On STT, the finance ministry had clarified that tax on selling options had been increased to 0.062 per cent from 0.05 per cent and not from 0.017 per cent to 0.021 per cent as mentioned in the previous amendments to the Bill.

The previous amendment had left options traders confused because the instrument was being taxed at 0.05 per cent. The ministry later in the day clarified it was a "typographical mistake".

Experts say the hike will affect high-frequency traders especially. "Any change in the cost structure has a material impact due to the thin spread in which such traders operate," said Rajesh Gandhi, partner, Deloitte India.

Turn to Page 6



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Finance Bill, 2023, which was passed without a discussion amid sloganeering by Opposition members demanding a JPC probe into allegations against the Adani group PHOTO: PTI

Context: The **Finance Bill, 2023**, passed in the Lok Sabha without discussion, is set to tax investors heavily from April 1.

- These included the one that seeks withdrawing **long term capital gains tax** benefits on certain categories of debt mutual funds and increasing **securities transaction tax (STT)** on selling options and futures contracts.

Capital gains

- **About**: It mean the **profit earned by an individual o**n the sale of his investment in assets such as stocks, real estate, bonds, commodities, etc.
  - Basically, it is the **'gain'** made on 'capital investment'.
  - In some tax jurisdictions - a country, state or city - capital gains are taxed if an individual sells an asset after holding it for a certain 'long' period. This period is often twelve months.
  - However, it could also be **defined differently for various assets.**
- **Legal Aspects:** In India, 'long-term' and 'short-term' are **defined by the Income Tax Act, 1961.**
  - Capital gains can be r**educed by deducting the capital losses** that occur when a taxable asset is sold for less than the original purchase price.
  - The total of capital gains minus any capital losses is known as the **"net capital gains".**
  - Tax on capital gains is triggered only when an asset is sold, or "realized". Stock shares that **appreciate every year will not be taxed** for capital gains until they are sold.
- **Long-term Capital Gains Tax:** It is a levy on the profits from the sale of assets held for **more than a year.** The rates are 0%, 15%, or 20%, depending on tax bracket.
- **Short-term Capital Gains Tax**: It applies to assets **held for a year or less** and is taxed as ordinary income.
- **Capital Assets**: **Land, building, house property, vehicles, patents, trademarks, leasehold rights, machinery, and jewellery** are a few examples of capital assets.
  - This includes having rights in or in relation to an Indian company.
  - It also includes the rights of management or control or any other legal right.

PIB MARCH 25

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Cabinet approves release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief to Pensioners, due from 01.01.2023

Context: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval to release an **additional instalment of Dearness Allowance** to Central Governments employees and Dearness Relief to Pensioners with effect from 01.01.2023.

Dearness Allowance

- **About**: DA is a c**ost of living adjustment** that the Government pays to public sector employees and pensioners.
- **Objectives**: To **curb the effect of inflation.**
- **Calculation**: It is calculated as **a percentage of the basic salary.**
  - DA for Central Government employees is **calculated differently than that of public sector employees.**
  - The formula to calculate the DA was changed in 2006 by the Government.
  - DA % for Central Govt Employees = {(All-India Consumer Price Index average (Base year 2001 =100) for the last 12 months -115.76)/115.76} x 100
  - DA % for Public Sector Employees = {(All-India Consumer Price Index Average (Base year 2001 =100) for the last 3 months -126.33)/126.33} x 100
  - Since DA is based on the cost of living, this **salary component is not fixed.**
  - DA **varies from employee to employee** based on their presence in the urban, semi-urban, or rural sectors.
- **Types of DA:**
  - **Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA):** VDA applies to **Central government** employees.
    - It undergoes revision **every six months** based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
  - **Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA):** IDA applies to the **Public sector employees** of the Central Government.
    - IDA is revised every **quarter based** on the changes in CPI.
- **Taxability**:
  - DA is **fully taxable** for individuals who are salaried employees.
  - It is **compulsory to declare the tax liability** concerning DA when filing an ITR.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 22

FAME INDIA SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

Extend FAME subsidy for EVs by 2 yrs: Panel

Pankaj.Doval
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New Delhi: The government should extend benefits for electric vehicles (EVs) under the FAME scheme by two more years after incentive ends in March next year or else the pace of EV adoption would slow down due to expensive vehicles, while startups in the category may fold up, a Parliamentary committee on EVs has said.

"Removal of government support would result in price escalation of EVs significantly. The committee finds that a large number of startups are also involved in this field, which may have to shut down once the FAME II is closed," the Committee on Estimates (2022-23) on 'Evaluation of Electric Vehicle Policy' pertaining to the ministry of heavy industries (MHI) said in its report that was presented at Lok Sabha on Friday.

It recommended that the government extend FAME-II scheme "to allow more time to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme and to make necessary adjustments/modifications to promote EVs".

The committee recommended that a comprehensive FAME-III scheme should be introduced once the extended period of FAME-II is over, based on the experience gained from FAME I and FAME II. This would help in continuing support towards EV penetration to a level where green vehicles will be able to compete with Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles, especially in terms of upfront costs, without requiring high incentives.

The committee said along with EVs and hybrid vehicles, the government should promote other technologies such as flex fuel vehicles, hydrogen ICE, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, with greater emphasis for mobility transition.

The committee also recommended that a road map for setting up of solar charging stations should be prepared in a time-bound manner to reduce dependence on electricity generated by using coal, to remain true to the green mobility objective of the government.

The panel added that purchase subsidies and cash-incentive schemes for scrapping/exchanging petrol/diesel vehicles for EVs can be considered in our country as it would lead not only to faster adoption of EVs but also have a major impact on controlling CO_2 emissions.

> "Removal of government support would result in price escalation of EVs significantly. The committee finds that a large number of startups are also involved in this field, which may have to shut down once the FAME II is closed
>
> "Along with EVs and hybrid vehicles, the government should promote other technologies such as flex fuel vehicles, hydrogen ICE, hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, with greater emphasis for mobility transition
>
> —PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EVs

Context: The government should extend benefits for electric vehicles (EVs) under the **FAME scheme** by two more years after incentive ends in March next year or else the pace of EV adoption would slow down due to expensive vehicles, while startups in the category may fold up, a Parliamentary committee on EVs has said.

FAME India

- **About**: **FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles)** India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.
  - Main thrust of FAME is to **encourage electric vehicles** by providing subsidies.
- **Implementing agency:** The **Department of Heavy Industry** is administering the scheme "Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in India", popularly known as FAME India scheme since **01st April 2015..**
- **Objective**: Promotion of Electric and hybrid vehicle in the country by offering upfront **Incentive on purchase of Electric vehicles** and by establishing charging Infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- **Salient features of the FAME scheme - 2:**
  - The scheme with total outlay of Rs 10,000 Crores over the period of three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) will be implemented with effect from 1st April 2019.
  - This scheme is the expanded version of the present scheme titled **'FAME India-1** which was launched on 1st April 2015, with total outlay of Rs. 895 crores.
  - **Target** is to support 10 Lakhs e-2Wheeler, 5 Lakhs e-3 Wheelers, 55000 4Wheelers and 7000 Buses.
  - Under the scheme of FAME-II, the **demand incentive** for e-2W has been increased to Rs. 15,000/KWh from Rs. 10,000/KWh with an increase in cap from 20% to almost 40% of the cost of the vehicle to increase the adoption of e-2W.
  - The phase II of FAME-India Scheme has been **extended for a period of two years after 31st March 2022.**
- **Benefits**: The scheme will help in **addressing the issue of environmental pollution** and fuel security.

THE HINDU

Page 1

DISQUALIFICATION OF MP

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Rahul disqualified as MP; Cong. calls it 'black day' for democracy

I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price, says Rahul; Congress accuses ruling party of trying to silence him and other Opposition leaders and announces nationwide agitation; BJP says the decision is legal

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A day after the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Surat convicted former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case over his Modi surname remark, the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Friday issued a notification to disqualify Mr. Gandhi as the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad.

Calling it a "black day" for Indian democracy, the Congress accused the ruling party of "strangulating" democracy by trying to silence the voices of Mr. Gandhi and other Opposition leaders. It would fight the battle legally as well as politically, the party said and announced a nationwide agitation against the disqualification.



New setback: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaving the Parliament building on Friday after his disqualification. AP

Mr. Gandhi, who had come to the Lok Sabha in the morning and attended a meeting of Congress MPs before the notification was issued, later tweeted, "I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price."

Stating that the Wayanad MP's disqualification from Lok Sabha was the natural outcome of the court order and emphasising that the law was equal for everyone, the BJP was quick to claim that Mr. Gandhi's 2019 comment about the Modi surname was an insult to Other Backward Classes (OBC).

At an election rally ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Gandhi had said: "I have a question. Why do all of them – all of these thieves – have Modi Modi Modi in their names? Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi. And if we search a bit more, many more Modis will come out."

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EDITORIAL » PAGE 8
FULL COVERAGE » PAGE 11

AAP, Trinamool, BRS, SP come to Rahul's support

NEW DELHI

Parties that have consistently questioned the Congress's position as the principal Opposition party — the Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamool Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi and the Samajwadi Party — came out in support of Rahul Gandhi. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said BJP was scared of Mr. Gandhi. » PAGE 11

He thinks law of the land does not apply to him: BJP

NEW DELHI

The BJP called Rahul Gandhi a "habitual offender" who believed that the law of the land did not apply to him. Noting that Mr. Gandhi is on bail in seven cases, the party asked him to reflect on why he hasn't been getting good legal advice from his own party, "despite it being full of good lawyers". » PAGE 11

MAY ALSO HAVE TO VACATE TUGHLAQ LANE BUNGALOW

- Section 8(3) of RP Act mandates **disqualification of any lawmaker who is 'convicted** of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 2 years'
- Sec 8(4) of Representation of People Act, 1951 states that disqualification takes effect only 'after 3 months have elapsed' from date of conviction. In 2013 ruling in **'Lily Thomas v Union of India', SC struck it down as unconstitutional and declared that MP/MLA would stand disqualified immediately**
- In 2018 'Lok Prahari v Union of India' order, **SC said disqualification 'will not operate from date of stay of conviction** by appellate court'
- Rahul may have to vacate 12, Tughlaq Lane house in a month if he doesn't get relief from higher court
- Abhishek Manu Singhvi cites Lok Prahari judgment, says there's **no automatic disqualification as Article 103 of Constitution states that only President has power to disqualify** after taking EC's advice
- Citing Section 8 of RP Act, an expert says **disqualification from contesting polls will be for 8 years** — 2-year jail and 6 from date of release
- Gandhi **second LS member, after Lakshadweep MP P P Mohammed Faisal of NCP, to be disqualified** following conviction. Kerala HC suspended Faisal's conviction and sentence but LS Secretariat is yet to revoke his disqualification
- RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav was disqualified in 2013 after conviction



Rahul Gandhi attended Lok Sabha's morning session and a meeting of Congress MPs

Context: A day after the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Surat convicted former Congress president in a criminal defamation case over his Modi surname remark, the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a notification to **disqualify him as the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad.**

- As per the Lok Sabha Secretariat notification, Rahul Gandhi has been disqualified under the **Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951,** which is enabled by Article 102 (1) (e) of the Constitution of India.
- **Section 8 of the Representation of People Act, 1951** says a lawmaker sentenced to not less than two years upon conviction will be disqualified.

Law on disqualification

- **Constitutional Provisions:** Rahul Gandhi has been disqualified under **Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.**
  - Such a disqualification is enabled by **Article 102 (1) (e) of the Constitution of India,** which says a lawmaker can be disqualified under any law enacted by the Parliament.
  - The **Representation of the People Act, 1951** further says the disqualified lawmaker stands disqualified even after their release from the jail.
- **IPC**: Rahul was convicted under **Sections 499 and 500** for defamation of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
  - **Section 500 of the IPC** extends imprisonment of up to two years, fine, or both, as punishment for defamation.
- **Out of electoral politics: Section 8 (3) of Representation of People Act, 1951** says any lawmaker sentenced to at least two years in jail remains disqualified for six years upon their release.
  - This means that Rahul's disqualification will continue till 2031, as the six-year period will start in 2025 when his two-year sentence ends.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 10

PAROLE AND FURLOUGH

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

PAROLE GIVEN TO PRISONERS DURING COVID-19 TO PREVENT OVERCROWDING

Parole days cannot be counted as part of sentence period: Top court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

THE SUPREME Court on Friday held that the period of parole granted to convicts during the Covid-19 pandemic to prevent overcrowding in prisons and avoid the risk of spread of infection, cannot be counted as part of their actual sentence period and has to be excluded from it.

"All those undertrial prisoners and convicts who were released on emergency parole or interim bail pursuant to the recommendations of the High Powered Committee in compliance with the orders passed by this court have to surrender before the concerned prison authorities within 15 days," a bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar directed while clarifying that they would still be allowed to apply suspension of their sentence before the concerned court.

The question of law involved in this case was whether the Covid leave period of a convict's parole could be considered for calculating the period of his actual sentence. An order passed by the court during Covid-19 in 2020 and a subsequent government notification directed the prisoners to be temporarily released on parole to prevent overcrowding of prisons during the pandemic.

The complexity of this question was confounded by the fact that several convicts were undergoing life imprisonment and were eligible to be considered for premature release after completing 14 years of their actual sentence as per the Prisoners Act. During the hearing, the state submitted that there were about 20,000 such prisoners whose cases were similar, some nearing the brink of completing their sentences.

Placing reliance on the law laid down in its January 5 ruling on a petition filed by one Rohan Dhungat serving life imprisonment for the offence of murder, the court said that a period of temporary parole has to be excluded from the actual sentence.

In Rohan Dhungat's case, the Apex Court dismissed a challenge to a judgment passed by the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court on Rule 335 of the Goa Prison Rules and Section 55 of the Prisoners Act 1894 (Extramural custody, control, and employment of prisoners), saying,

"If the submission on behalf of the prisoners that the period of parole is to be included while considering 14 years of actual imprisonment is accepted, in that case, any prisoner who may be influential may get the parole for number of times as there is no restrictions and it can be granted number of times and if the submission on behalf of the prisoners is accepted, it may defeat the very object and purpose of actual imprisonment. We are of the firm view that for the purpose of considering actual imprisonment, the period of parole is to be excluded."

Rule 335 of the Goa Prison Rules, 2006 says, that "the period of release on furlough and parole shall be counted as remission of sentence, provided that, in case of breach, it shall not be counted."

Section 55 in The Prisons Act, of 1894 says that "a prisoner, when being taken to or from any prison in which he may be lawfully confined, or whenever he is working outside or is otherwise beyond the limits of any such prison in or under the lawful custody or control of a prison-officer belonging to such prison, shall be deemed to be in prison and shall be subject to all the same incidents as if he were actually in prison."

Context: The Supreme Court held that the period of **parole** granted to convicts during the Covid-19 pandemic to prevent overcrowding in prisons and avoid the risk of spread of infection, cannot be counted as part of their actual sentence period and has to be excluded from it.

Parole and Furlough

- **Parole:** It is a system of **releasing a prisoner** with suspension of the sentence.
  - The release is **conditional**, usually subject to behaviour, and requires periodic reporting to the authorities for a set period of time.
- **Furlough**: A broadly similar concept is furlough, which is given in case of **long-term imprisonment.**
- **Difference between parole and furlough:**
  - While **furlough is seen as a matter of right,** to be granted periodically irrespective of any reason and merely to enable the prisoner to retain family and social ties, **parole is not a matter of right** and may be denied to a prisoner even when he makes out a sufficient case.
  - The Supreme Court in **'Asfaq vs State of Rajasthan and Others'** in 2017 said the main purpose of parole and furlough - **a conditional temporary release**, but with a benefit that such a period of release is considered part of the total sentence - is to afford a convict the opportunity to solve their personal and family problems and enable them to maintain their links with society.
- **Legal Aspects:** Each state has its **own parole policy**, which is slightly different from each other.
- **Eligibility**: A convict must have served **at least one year in jail,** excluding any time spent in remission.
  - The prisoner's **behavior** had to be **uniformly good.**
  - The criminal should **not have committed any crimes** during the period of parole if it was granted previously.
  - The convict **should not have broken any of the terms** and restrictions of his or her previous release.
- **Process:** Temporary release under provisions for parole or furlough is **given by the state,** but its decision can be challenged before a court of law.
  - The **Rules framed under the 1988 Act** in 2007 state that a prisoner can seek temporary release by submitting an application before the Jail Superintendent who in turn will forward the application and a report of his to the District Magistrate.
  - The **District Magistrate** will then forward the case with his recommendations to the Director General of Prisons for grant of parole or otherwise.
  - In certain types of cases, the **Divisional Commissioners or District Magistrates** can take decisions at their own level as per a notification issued by the government in 2017.

DTE

MARCH 25

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Issue related to Children)

Despite progress, school feeding coverage low where needed most: WFP

Contributions from donors fell from 69% to 55% over the pandemic years

By Madhumita Paul
Published: Friday 24 March 2023



Context: The reach of school meals in low-income countries remains four percent below pre-pandemic levels, despite a recovery overall, according to a new **World Food Programme (WFP) report.**

- The number of **children fed by school meals has fallen** by approximately four per cent in low-income countries, with the biggest declines observed in Africa.
- High-income, upper middle-income and lower middle-income countries showed a consistent, modest increase of 4 per cent, 4 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

World Food Programme (WFP)

- **About**: WFP is a branch of the **United Nations t**hat deals with hunger eradication and promotes food security in the world.
  - **Founded in 1961,** it is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
  - **It is a member of the** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Operations**: Operating in more than 80 countries, WFP provides **food assistance during emergencies** and works with communities to enhance nutrition and generate resilience.
  - WFP has been **functioning in India** since 1963.
  - **WFP's work is guided by the** Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Funding**: WFP is funded by **voluntary donations** from governments, corporates and private donors.
- **Report Released by WFP**: Global Report on Food Crisis.
  - The **Global Report on Food Crises** describes the scale of acute hunger in the world.
  - It provides an analysis of the drivers that are **contributing to food crises across the globe.**
  - The report is produced by the **Global Network against Food Crises**, an international alliance working to address the root causes of extreme hunger.

Difference between FAO and WFP

- **Not specialised**: While the FAO is a specialised organisation, the **WFP is a programme under the UNDP.**
- **Origin**: While both are headquartered in Rome, FAO was established much earlier than the WFP.
  - FAO was formed in 1945 and the WFP, in 1961.
- **Objectives**: FAO focuses its efforts on **improving nutrition, increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing living standards** in rural populations, and help in global economic development.
  - The WFP, on the other hand, is a **food-assistance programme** with a focus on emergency situations, although it works in other areas as well.

PIB

MARCH 25

NATIONAL RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

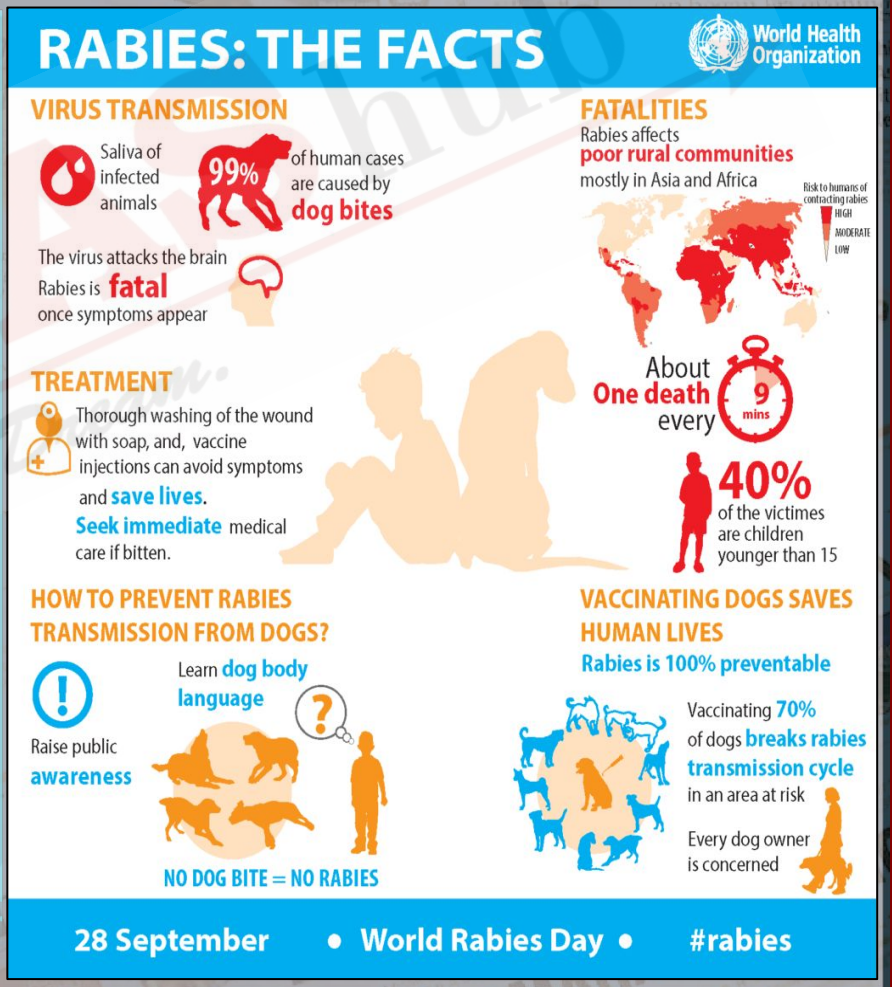
Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh informs that NASA and ISRO have jointly manufactured an earth science satellite named, NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) at a cost of about Rs 470 crore

Context: The Central Government has launched the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)** for prevention and control of Rabies.

- The **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** has also requested the concerned authorities to take appropriate action and to effectively implement the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023 to control the dog population.

Key Points

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India jointly launched **'National Action Plan For Dog Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE) from India by 2030'.**
- The **stray dog population control and management** of the stray dogs is the mandate of the local bodies.
- The Central Government has framed the **Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2023** which is to be implemented by the local authority to control the population of **stray dogs.**
    - **The main focus of the rules is on** anti-rabies vaccination of stray dogs and neutering of stray dogs as means of population stabilization.
- The **Supreme Court of India in AWBI Vs P.E.S.T & Ors** directed all the State Governments to implement the A**BC (Dogs) Rules, 2001** diligently to control the stray dog population, to constitute the State Level Monitoring Committee & District Level Monitoring Committee to address the issues related to stray dogs in the respective local bodies.
    - Accordingly, the Animal Welfare Board of India has also forwarded a revised module to all the State Governments regarding the proper implementation of the Animal Birth Control programme.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India has issued **following advisories / guidelines for proper implementation of the Animal Birth Control Rules.**
    - Strategies of the **National Rabies Control Program a**re as follows:
    - **Provision of rabies vaccine & rabies immunoglobulin** through national free drug initiatives
    - **Training on appropriate animal bite** management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance and intersectoral coordination
    - **Strengthening surveillance** of animal bites and rabies deaths reporting
    - **Creating awareness** about rabies prevention



DST

MARCH 25

G20 RIIG CONFERENCE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Relations)

Building a sustainable and circular bio-economy to be discussed at G20 RIIG conference in Dibrugarh

Context: Delegates from G20 members, guest countries, and International organizations, and invited participants from the scientific community deliberated on the ways towards building a sustainable and circular bio-economy at the **G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Conference** at Dibrugarh, Assam, India.

- The **G20 RIIG Conference** provided a platform for experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss various aspects of a sustainable and circular bio-economy.

Discussions at the G20 RIIG Conference

- **Innovation and Technology:** Exploring the latest technological developments and innovations that can support a sustainable and circular bio-economy.
- **Sustainable Production and Consumption**: Discussing ways to promote sustainable and circular production and consumption patterns.
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry:** Examining the role of sustainable agriculture and forestry in a circular bio-economy, including the use of agroforestry and sustainable land management practices.
- **Waste Management and Recycling**: Exploring the role of waste management and recycling in a circular bio-economy and ways to promote more efficient and effective waste management practices.
- **Circular Business Models**: Discussing the development of circular business models that can drive sustainable and regenerative economic growth.

Sustainable and Circular Bio-economy

- **About**: A bio-economy is an economic system that **uses renewable biological resources,** such as crops, forests, and fisheries, to produce food, energy, and materials.
- **Significance**: A sustainable and circular bio-economy is one that **ensures the long-term sustainability of these resources** by minimizing waste and maximizing their value through efficient use and reuse.
    - It involves **transitioning away from fossil fuels and non-renewable resources** and towards a more sustainable and regenerative economic model.

DTE MARCH 25

WESTERN DISTURBANCES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)



Context: The reason for the abnormal winter seasons since 2020-21 lies in the changing character of the **Western Disturbances,** a series of cyclonic storms that originate in the **Mediterranean region**, and travel over 9,000 km to bring winter rains to northwest India.

- India has not experienced a normal winter in three years. The second wettest season in the country after the monsoons has remained unusually dry and hot.

Western disturbance

- **About**: It is an **extratropical storm** originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent.
  - They are labelled as an **extra-tropical storm** originating in the Mediterranean, is an **area of low pressure** that brings sudden showers, snow, and fog in northwest India.
  - In the term “extra-tropical storm”, storm refers to low pressure. **“Extra-tropical” means outside the tropics.**
- **Non-monsoonal**: It is a non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies.
- **Origin**: The moisture in these storms usually originates over the **Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea.**
  - Extratropical storms are **global phenomena** with moisture usually carried in the upper atmosphere, unlike their tropical counterparts where the moisture is carried in the lower atmosphere.
  - In the case of the **Indian subcontinent,** moisture is sometimes shed as rain when the storm system encounters the Himalayas.
  - Western disturbances are **more frequent and strong in the winter** season.

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