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THE HINDU Page 1

KANGAROO COURT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Kangaroo court puts price on union of love

SPECIAL

P. V. Srividya
KRISHNAGIRI

When Pradeep, a diploma holder, married his then-girlfriend, a B.Sc. Botany graduate, it was a union of love, duly registered. In time, their families accepted the couple, both from the same Dalit community. However, opposition came from an unexpected quarter. The *manayakarar* (community head) of their Scheduled Caste village of more than 200 households in the Thogarapalli panchayat in Mathur held a community 'court' to 'judge' their case and slapped a fine of ₹25,000 on the families of the couple.



Rights infringed: The site of the 'kangaroo court' in Thogarapalli panchayat where couples were subjected to fines. N. BASHKARAN

Mr. Pradeep's case would be the beginning of the village's practice of levying 'fines' against those falling in love by the feudal 'kangaroo courts' headed by Arignar, the DMK union secretary for Bargur South constituency in Thogarapalli panchayat.

"In our village, people have had love marriages before too. But these penalties started with my marriage after Arignar was made the community head. That was a huge amount. They threatened to disconnect our water and electricity connection. We were unable to fight and our families paid up ₹25,000 each," Mr. Pradeep said.

"I even told my uncle, who was then posted at Mathur Police Station, but he suggested that I pay and let go of any conflict."

The 'kangaroo court' runs on patriarchal diktat. Its administrators claim to speak for the community with the stated aim of exercising social control. Men set the agenda, and women are typically disallowed from participating. The fine of ₹25,000 is a form of enforcing social control and pushes people into penury.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Context: In a Dalit hamlet in Krishnagiri, a **'kangaroo court' undermined individuals' right to love**.

- The **Manayakarar (community head) of the Scheduled Caste village** with over 200 households in Thogarapalli panchayat in Mathur held a community 'court' and slapped a fine of ₹25,000 on the families of the couple.

Kangaroo Court

- **About**: It is defined as **an unofficial court** managed by a group of people to try someone as guilty even without good evidence.
  - The phrase" Kangaroo Court" is **used against a judicial system** where the judgement against the accused is usually predetermined.
  - It is used to refer to proceedings or activities where a judgement is made in a manner that is **unfair, biased, and lacks legitimacy.**
- **Origin**: The origin of the **phrase is not clearly known,** but it is believed to have been used from the 19th Century onwards.
  - The first kangaroo courts originated in the **United States in 1849.**
  - It was **first mentioned in 1853 in a book in the USA.**
  - The Kangaroo Courts were **common during the Stalin era in the Soviet Union**, famous as the **"Moscow Trials"** of the Soviet Great Purge.
- **India's Status**: The usage of term "Kangaroo Court" in India is related to **rising impact of Social and Online Media**, which is not regulated very effectively.
  - It is being used to give Judgments/verdicts in those cases which are before the Court of Law and such verdict of "Kangaroo Courts" are usually **based on ethnicity, religion and gender of the person who is being tried by such courts.**
  - Recently, it has been seen that **online and print media delivers its verdict way before the case starts** in actual court of law, and this cannot be denied that such course of action does somehow impact the actual proceedings and in fact it prejudices the courts/judges also.

SC's View

- Recently, Chief Justice of India said that the **media is running "kangaroo courts" in India.**
- The Chief Justice of India (CJI) said that the kangaroo courts being run by the media are **detrimental to the health of the country's democracy.**
- **Ill-informed, biased and agenda-driven debates** in the media on issues pending in courts are affecting justice delivery.
- He said **concerted campaigns against judges**, particularly on social media, and media trials affect judicial functioning.

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

EDIBLE OIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy & Agriculture)

30% edible oil consumption in a year from GM sources

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 6 December

Around 30 per cent of India's estimated annual consumption of edible oil comes from sources, which are directly or indirectly produced from genetically-modified (GM) crops.

These include both imported oils and domestically-produced cotton seed oil, bulk of which are produced from GM cotton, trade and industry sources said.

The import of GM edible oils is allowed without the stringent labelling rules as mandated for all other forms of GM foods imported into India. This is due to blanket approval for edible oil imports in bulk.

Even soymeal, which was imported into India in the last few years, has largely come from GM sources for which approvals were also granted, the industry said.

Explaining the math, a senior industry official said that India's average annual consumption of edible oils is around 23 million tonnes. Of this, 10-11 million tonnes comes from domestic sources which are largely GM-free, except for cotton seed oil, whose production is around 1.0-1.1 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

Bulk of the edible oils — roughly around 8 MTPA — is palm oil, which is fully GM-free.

But, the remaining edible oils, which are soyoil and sunflower oil, come largely from seed produced using the GM technology.

"So, it can be said that out of the total annual domestic edible oil consumption of around 23 million tonnes, roughly 5-7 million tonnes is from GM sources," said BV Mehta, director general of Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA).

Meanwhile, a group of anti-GM doctors and agriculture scientists have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately stop the approval of GM mustard.

The doctors said that a herbicide-tolerant crop will expose consumers and farmers to a toxic herbicide with serious long-term health implications.

The scientists are of the opinion that GM mustard is nothing but a strategic move to spoil our indigenous resources of fertile soils containing useful microorganisms. It is paralysing the valuable farming resource used to bring self-sufficiency in food, they felt.

The pro-GM scientists, in a separate statement, said that the Supreme Court must not turn indifferent to the most obvious and compelling reasons for the release of GM mustard.

"The case on GM crops is one of the longest-pending cases in the Supreme Court. It serves the purpose of those who are against technology, choice and innovative practices in Indian agriculture," said CD Mayee, president of South Asia Biotechnology Centre, Jodhpur (Rajasthan).

Context: Around 30 per cent of India´s estimated annual consumption of edible oil comes from sources, which are directly or indirectly produced from genetically modified (GM) crops.

Edible Oil: India's Status

- **India's Production**: India accounts for the estimated **production of 36.56 million tons of nine cultivated oilseeds** during the year 2020-21(November-October) as per the 3rd Advance Estimates released by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2021.
- **World's second-largest consumer:**
  - **Primary sources of Edible oil:** Soybean, Rapeseed & Mustard, Groundnut, Sunflower, Safflower & Niger.
  - **Secondary sources of Edible Oil**: Oil palm, Coconut, Rice Bran, Cotton seeds & Tree Borne Oilseeds.
- **World's largest importer:** India meets nearly **55% to 60% of its edible oil demand through imports.**
  - **Palm oil (Crude + Refined)** constitutes roughly around 62% of the total edible oils imported and are imported mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia.
  - **Soyabean oil (22%)** is imported from Argentina and Brazil and Sunflower oil (15%) is imported mainly from Ukraine and Russia.
  - Import of edible oils is under **Open General License (OGL).**
    - OGL is a type of license that is **used for the export license** that is issued by the government for domestic suppliers.
    - The items that are to be exported in India are **categorised into three types**. They are prohibited items, restricted items, and freely importable items. These classifications are made based on the nature and use of the products.
- **Major challenges in oilseed production:**
  - Growing in largely rain-fed conditions (around 70% area),
  - High seed cost (Groundnut and Soybean),
  - Small holding with limited resources,
  - Low seed replacement rate and low productivity.
- **National Mission on Edible Oil**: The aim of the scheme is to raise the **domestic production of palm oil by three times to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26** and to 28 lakh tonnes by 2029-30.
  - The scheme has a special focus on the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Northeastern region** of India.
- **7 oilseeds are covered under MSP**: Groundnut, Rapeseed-Mustard, Soyabean, Seasmum, Sunflower, Safflower, Nigerseed.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 9

LEGACY WASTES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Over 50% landfill sites in 5 states, no remedial plans

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

FIVE STATES account for more than half of the 1,080 "legacy landfill sites" for which authorities are yet to propose remediation plans under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, which aims to clear all legacy dump sites by 2026, according to Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's SBM-U dashboard on Tuesday.

Old waste at landfill sites that has remained dumped for more than three months is considered "legacy" dump sites.

Launched last year, the second iteration of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban has the targets of creating "garbage-free cities" and 100% remediation of all legacy landfills by the end of the mission's five-year cycle.

The dashboard, which officials said went live on November 28, is being updated as and when action plans are submitted by cities through the respective state governments to the ministry. As of 4.30 pm on December 6, the dashboard showed that 1,854 sites across the country, spread over 47,456.66 acres and with 18.67 crore tonnes of waste, were yet to be remediated. Of 1,080 sites for which remediation was yet to be proposed, 591 were in five states: Karnataka (136), Rajasthan (128), Andhra Pradesh (115), Madhya Pradesh (111), and Telangana (101).

Maharashtra had 91 sites for which remediation was yet to be proposed, the dashboard showed.

Delhi, where the three legacy landfills at Ghazipur, Bhalswa and Okhla became a topic of debate during last week's elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, has action plans approved for all three sites. About 84% of the 2.80 crore tonnes of legacy waste is yet to be remediated, according to the dashboard.

A ministry official said the government has increased the funding for Delhi to clear its legacy landfills from Rs 436 crore to Rs 1,180 crore. The amount has been transferred to the MCD, the official said.

Under the mission, municipalities are required to submit action plans for bio-remediation of legacy landfills. Depending on the composition, the waste is divided into refused derived fuel (RDF) for waste-to-energy plants, construction and demolition (C&D) waste for recycling by C&D plants and bio-soil that can be used to fill gaps in road construction.

After clearing the dump sites, municipalities are required to firm up plans for alternative use of the land, which, according to the dashboard, is over 47,000 acres of urban land.

TOP 5: STATES WHERE NO ACTION PLAN PROPOSED



State	Total no. of dumpsites	*No. of sites	**Total waste
Karnataka	194	136	1,80,08,229
Rajasthan	152	128	1,19,09,240
Andhra Pradesh	123	115	75,28,688
Madhya Pradesh	175	111	51,79,192
Telangana	111	101	34,20,772

*where remediation not proposed yet **yet to be remediated (Ton)

1,854 Legacy dumpsites across India, where waste has remained accumulated for over 3 months

Source: Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban dumpsite dashboard — as of 4.30 pm Dec 6, 2022

Context: Five states account for more than half of the 1,080 "**legacy landfill sites**" for which authorities are yet to propose remediation plans under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, which aims to clear all legacy dump sites by 2026.

- Under **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**, the Government adopted "Mission ZERO Waste" which aims at the Management of Solid wastes generated.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0

- **Launch**: It was launched in october 2021 by the Prime Minister.
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**).
- **SBM-U 2.0 envisions to:**
  - **Make all cities 'Garbage Free'** and ensure grey and black water management in all cities other than those covered under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
    - The AMRUT scheme is **an initiative to provide basic civic amenities** to the urban areas to improve the quality of life with major focus to the poor and the disadvantaged.
  - **Make all urban local bodies as ODF+** and those with a population of less than 1 lakh as ODF++, thereby achieving the vision of safe sanitation in urban areas.
- **Primary Focus**: The Mission will f**ocus on source segregation of solid waste,** utilising the principles of **3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle),** scientific processing of all types of municipal solid waste and remediation of legacy dumpsites for effective solid waste management.

Legacy Waste

- **About**: Legacy wastes are the wastes that **have been collected and kept for years** at some barren land or a place dedicated for Landfill (an area to dump solid waste).
- **Four categories:**
  - Contained and/or stored waste(contained or stored waste are wastes in tanks, canisters, and stainless steel bins).
  - Buried waste.
  - Contaminated soil and groundwater
  - Contaminated building materials and structures.
- **Environmental Impact**: Legacy wastes not only occupy large space, but a**lso become a breeding ground for pathogens, flies, malodours and generation of leachate**, which may lead to water contamination.
  - They also c**ontribute to generation of greenhouse gases** and pose risk of uncontrollable fire.
- **Treatment**: **Biomining method** has been proposed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the effective disposal of legacy wastes.
  - Bioleaching (or biomining) is a **process in mining and biohydrometallurgy (natural processes of interactions between microbes and minerals)** that extracts valuable metals from a low-grade ore with the help of microorganisms such as bacteria or archaea.

LIVEMINT Page 13

HINDU UNDIVIDED FAMILY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Society)

What is the legal procedure to transfer shares from my brother's HUF account?

Rishabh Shroff



ASK MINT
ESTATE PLANNING

I want to transfer certain shares from my elder brother's HUF (Hindu undivided family) account to my individual account as he is more than 75 years old now. I am not a member of his HUF. What is the legal procedure to transfer these stocks?

—Name withheld on request

Do note that the interest of any coparcener in HUF property at any time is an undivided interest, which cannot be specifically determined or crystallized until a partition or dissolution occurs.

An HUF can be wound up through its partition, which is usually done by agreement between all its coparceners. The property belonging to the HUF can be distributed / transferred to the concerned coparceners once the HUF is wound up.

In your case, given that you are not the coparcener of your elder brother's HUF (nor the karta), you will not have any right to transfer the HUF property (i.e. the shares) to your account, upon its partition and winding up. Only the existing coparceners of your elder brother's HUF will be entitled to its HUF property.

Given his advanced age, it maybe be helpful to discuss the partition of the HUF with him.

On a practical note, subject to the commercial understanding between the parties, the shares which your brother receives as a result of winding up of his HUF can be transferred / gifted to you. Do seek specific legal and tax advice on these aspects.

I am an Indian resident and my son is a permanent resident of Canada. I want to transfer my agricultural land to my son by way of a will. Can my son transfer the returns from this land to an overseas account. What are the rules and regulations for this as per the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)?

- Name withheld on request

Your query infers that your son is a non-resident Indian (NRI) and will inherit your agricultural property post your demise. Under the Indian exchange control regime, the transfer of agricultural property by way of a lifetime gift to an NRI (in this case, your son) by a person resident in India (you) is not permitted.

However, under the said regime, a person resident outside India can hold and own 'any' immovable property situated in India if such property was inherited from a person resident in India. Therefore, in your case, your NRI son can inherit the agricultural property in India – but this can only happen after your demise.

As regards the remittance of the agricultural income overseas, we assume that your son has an NRO (non-resident ordinary) account in India. It is worth checking with your son's bank in relation to their policy on remittance of both agricultural income and current income. If they permit the same, it can be done from the said NRO account and will be subject to applicable remittance limits.

Furthermore, given that the exchange control regime is intricate and provides some scope for structuring, we would recommend consulting your bank and your lawyer before finalizing your plan.

Rishabh Shroff is partner & co-head, private client, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas.

Do you have a personal finance query? Send in your queries at **mintmoney@livemint.com** and get them answered by industry experts.

Context: Recently, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president recalled how former Law Commission Chairman opined that the UCC was unnecessary and the **Hindu Undivided Family tax rebate should be removed.**

Hindu Undivided Family

- **About**: An HUF is a family which **consists of all persons lineally descended from a common ancestor,** and also the wives and daughters of the male descendants.
  - It consists of the **karta**, who is typically the oldest person or head of the family, while other family members are coparceners.
  - The **karta manages the day-to-day affairs** of the HUF. Children are coparceners of their father's HUF.
  - Once a **daughter gets married, she becomes a member of her husband's HUF**, while continuing to be a coparcener of her father's HUF.
  - The **concept of HUF comes under the Hindu Succession Act** and it applies to all Hindu families.
  - The concept even applies to Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs, and to any person in India who is not Christian, Muslim,Parsi or Jew by religion.
  - The members of **Scheduled Tribes are exempted from the law.**
- **Provisions about inheritance**: As per the Hindu Succession Act, **all people who born in the family have the right to the HUF property.**
  - The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 **included only the male members as coparceners**.
  - By an **amendment to the act in 2005, daughters are also provided equal rights.** Daughters become coparceners of their father's families on birth same as sons, and have the same rights as sons in the family properties.
- **Difference between an HUF and a 'joint family'**: **Sons-in-law and daughters-in-law** are not part of the HUF, even though they are members of the 'joint family'.
- **Income-tax Act, 1961:** Under the act, an HUF is considered as a 'person' i.e. **as a separate entity for the purpose of tax assessment.**
  - An HUF is taxed with **same slab rates** as applicable to an individual income tax assesse.
  - An HUF **obtains separate Permanent Account Number (PAN)** in the name of the HUF.
  - This will bring down the **family's tax liability** as the income earned from assets and businesses owned by the HUF are assessed separately.
  - However, once the family income is assessed as an HUF, it will be continued in subsequent assessment years as well till partition is claimed by the coparceners.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 1

WORLD BANK FORECAST

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

RAISED TO 6.9% FROM 6.5%

World Bank Ups India FY23 Growth Forecast

Says country to remain one of the fastest-growing major economies

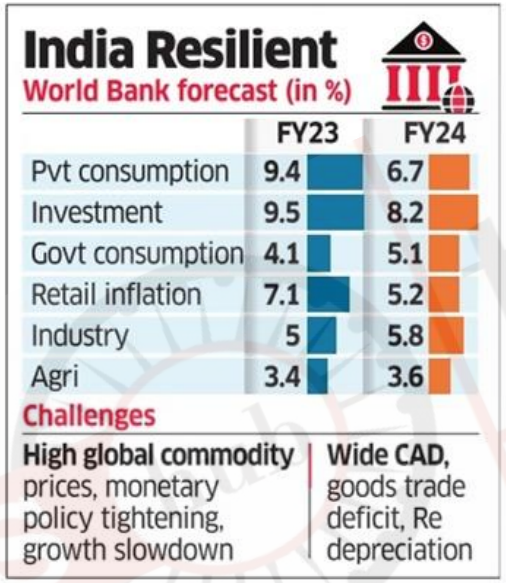
Our Bureau

New Delhi: The World Bank on Tuesday bumped up India's FY23 growth forecast to 6.9% from 6.5% projected earlier in October, reversing what was among the most bearish estimates for the economy.

The bank said India "demonstrated resilience despite a challenging external environment" and the country is "relatively well positioned to weather global spillovers compared to most other emerging markets".

The bank had slashed India's growth forecast by a percentage point to 6.5% in October, flagging multiple risks including the Russia-Ukraine war and global monetary policy tightening. The "strong outrun" in the September quarter powered the upward revision. India's economy grew 6.3% in the quarter from a year earlier, data released last week showed. The bank trimmed the FY24 forecast to 6.6% from the 7% estimated earlier.

'Robust Domestic Demand' ▸▸ 10



Context: The **World Bank bumped up India's FY23 growth forecast** to 6. 9% from 6. 5% projected earlier in October, reversing what was among the most bearish estimates for the economy.

Key Findings of WB Projections

- **Well positioned**: India **"demonstrated resilience despite a challenging external environment**" and the country is "relatively well positioned to weather global spillovers compared to most other emerging markets".
  - The bank had **slashed India's growth forecast by a percentage point to 6. 5% in October**, flagging multiple risks including the Russia-Ukraine war and global monetary policy tightening.
- **Fastest-growing major economies**: Helped by a "**robust domestic demand,"** the report entitled 'Navigating the Storm' noted that India will be one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world.
- **Insulated from global factors**: India's economy is **relatively insulated from global factors** compared with other emerging markets because of its large domestic market and is relatively less exposed to international trade flows.
  - But it's **not completely shielded** from events, especially in the US, the Euro area and China.
  - As per the report, a percentage point decline in growth in the US is associated with **a 0.4 percentage point fall in India's growth** while the effect is around 1.5 times for other emerging economies.
  - According to World Bank economists, for India to become a high growth economy by 2047, the **country needs to expand at 8% in the medium term**. India's economy grew 8.7% in FY22.
- **Fiscal deficit**: The World Bank said it expects the government to meet the **fiscal deficit target of 6.4% of GDP in FY23,** helped by strong growth in tax collection.
  - The general government deficit is projected to decline to 9.6% from 10.3% in FY22 and 13.3% in FY21. Public debt is also projected to decline to 84.3% of GDP from a peak of 87.6% in FY21.
  - The **current account deficit is adequately financed by improving foreign direct investment** inflows and a solid cushion of foreign exchange reserves.
  - The multilateral lender sees 7.1.% inflation in the current fiscal moderating to 5.2% in FY24.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 9

SESSIONS OF PARLIAMENT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Winter session: Govt eyes 16 bills, seeks oppn cooperation

Border Issue, 'Misuse' Of Probe Agencies On Non-NDA Parties' Radar

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: On the eve of the winter session of Parliament, deputy leader of BJP in Lok Sabha Rajnath Singh sought cooperation from the Opposition for smooth conduct of proceedings even as leaders of various parties said they would seek discussions on issues like unemployment, inflation, border situation with China and alleged misuse of central agencies.

Leader of House in Rajya Sabha Piyush Goyal and parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi were also present at the meeting attended by over 30 opposition leaders.

During the meeting, Joshi spelt out the government's legislative agenda and said the meeting has note of all the issues raised by political parties and the discussions will be held as per the norms and procedures of Parliament.

In the three week-long session till December 29, the government plans to bring 16 new bills and push for the passage of 8 pending legislations.

ANI



Defence minister Rajnath Singh with other leaders at the all-party meeting on the eve of the winter session, in New Delhi on Tuesday

In a separate meeting of the business advisory committee, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also sought the cooperation of all parties in ensuring that the House operates without disruptions.

In preceding Parliament sessions, the government has not allowed a discussion on the border situation with China and dismissed the Opposition's charges that central agencies are being "misused".

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Dr Naseer Hussain of Cogress said the time allotted was not enough and demanded discussion on as many as 16 issues, from the falling rupee, decreasing exports and declining GDP growth rate to the Centre's "attack" on the judiciary over the collegium issue.

Besides Congress, TMC, AAP and NCP underlined the need for a discussion on the alleged misuse of central agencies, apart from seeking clarity on the external threat to India's security, rising pollution levels and the growing number of attacks on Kashmiri Pandits.

Results of the MCD polls on December 7 and the assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh on December 8 are also expected to cast a shadow over Parliament's functioning in the opening week.

TMC leaders Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Derek O'Brien also sought discussions on price rise and unemployment while BJD's Sasmit Patra demanded the passage of the long-pending women's reservation bill. Patra's demand was echoed by TMC, Congress, NCP and the TRS.

Shiv Sena's Shinde faction sought a population control bill, while AAP's Sanjay Singh demanded a discussion on the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and sought a law to ensure MSP for farm produce.

Context: On the **eve of the winter session of Parliament,** deputy leader of BJP in Lok Sabha sought cooperation from the Opposition for smooth conduct of proceedings even as leaders of various parties said they would seek discussions on issues like unemployment, inflation, border situation with China and alleged misuse of central agencies.

Sessions of Parliament

- **About**: A session of the Indian Parliament is the period during which a House meets almost every day uninterruptedly to manage the business.
  - India **does not have a fixed parliamentary calendar.**
  - The **gap between two sessions** of the Parliament **cannot exceed 6 months,** which means the Parliament meets at least two times in one year.
- **Power to summon and prorogue the sessions**: The **President** summons each House of the Parliament from time to time.
  - The session of parliament in India is **convened by the Union Government.**
- **No Constitutional provisions:** By **convention** (i.e. **not provided by the Constitution**), Parliament meets for three sessions in a year:
  - **Budget session (February to May)**: The members **discuss the various provisions of the budget** and matters concerning taxation, after the Finance Minister presents the budget.
  - **Monsoon session (July to September):** In this session, **matters of public interest** are discussed.
  - **Winter session (November to December):** It takes up the matters that **could not be considered upon earlier** and makes up for the absence of legislative business during the second session of the Parliament.
    - The **budget and the monsoon sessions last for about 4 and 3 months,** respectively.
    - The **winter session lasts for about one month only.**

PIB

Dec 7

NATIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

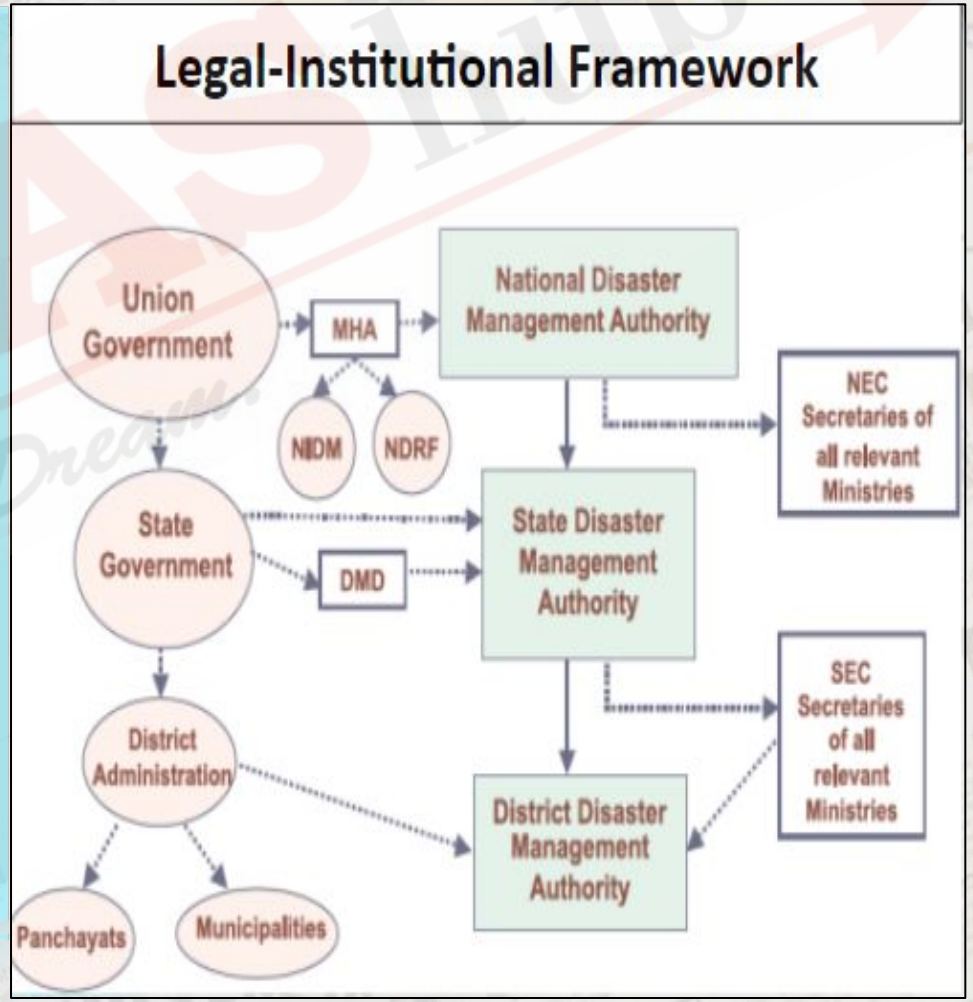
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Disaster Management)

National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) meets to review preparedness for possible cyclonic storm over Bay of Bengal

Context: The **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)** under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary met and reviewed preparedness of Central Ministries/Agencies, and State/Union Territory Governments to review preparedness for the possible cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal.

National Crisis Management Committee

- **About**: A committee set up by the Government of India in the **wake of a natural calamity** for effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations.
  - At the national level, **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** and **National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)** are the key committees involved in the top-level decision-making wrt Disaster Management (DM).
  - A National Crisis Management Committee(NCMC) has been **constituted in the Cabinet Secretariat.**
  - It is **headed by Cabinet Secretary.**
  - On the constitution of such a committee, the **Agriculture Secretary shall provide all necessary information** to and seek directions.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of **Home Affairs.**
- **Composition**: Cabinet Secretary (Chairperson); Secretaries of Ministries / Departments and agencies with specific Disaster management responsibilities.
- **Key functions:**
  - Oversee the **Command, Control and Coordination** of the disaster response.
  - Give direction to the **Crisis Management Group (CMG)** as deemed necessary.



PIB

Dec 7

e-SANJEEVANI

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

National telemedicine service of India - eSanjeevani achieves 8 crore teleconsultations

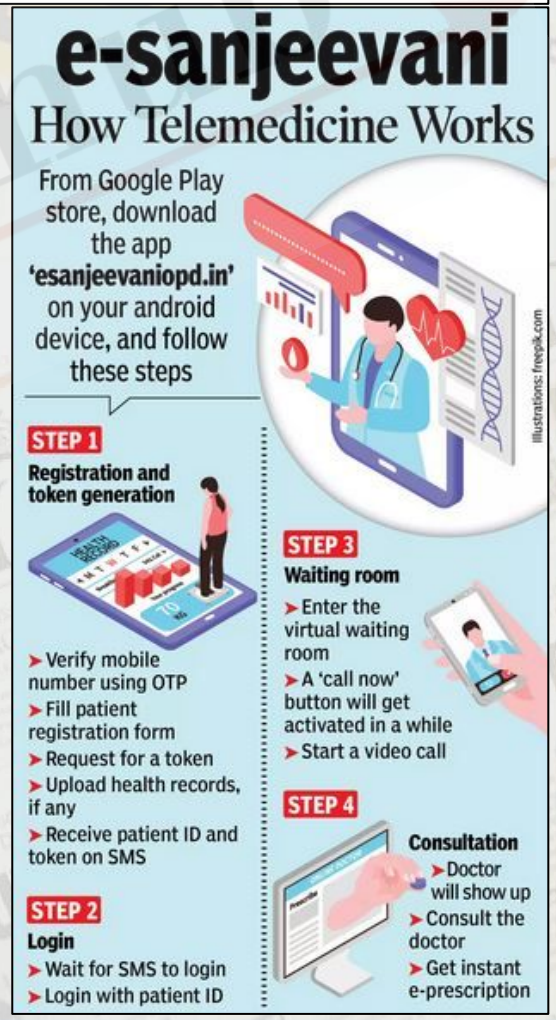
Context: In a significant achievement, **eSanjeevani, Govt. of India's free telemedicine service**, has crossed another astounding milestone by clocking 8 crore teleconsultations.

Key Points

- eSanjeevani is a **cohesive part Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission (ABDM),** and more than 45,000 ABHA IDs have been generated via eSanjeevani application.
- **Leading ten states for usage of this platform are**: Andhra Pradesh (28242880), West Bengal (10005725), Karnataka (9446699), Tamil Nadu (8723333), Maharashtra (4070430), Uttar Pradesh (3763092), Madhya Pradesh (3283607), Bihar (2624482), Telangana (2452529), Gujarat (1673888).

eSanjeevani

- **About**: The first-ever online OPD (outpatient) **consultation service offered** by the government of India to citizens.
- **Origin**: The scheme was **started in November 2019.** The first state to launch this service was **Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Objectives**: Also called the National Teleconsultation Service, it aims to provide healthcare services to patients in their homes.
- **Nodal Ministry**: **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- **Key features:** It includes **a structured and safe teleconsultation between a doctor and a patient** through online mode (eSanjeevani OPD).
  - The e-Sanjeevani OPD portal and system has been developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Mohali.**
  - The panel of doctors on the service is drawn by the **state governments.**
  - A few states like Jharkhand, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, etc. have started offering specialised doctor consultation services also.
  - The service is **also available on mobile application.**
- **Difference between eSanjeevani and eSanjeevani OPD:** eSanjeevani OPD is based on the eSanjeevani model and offers OPD consultation services to people in the comfort of their homes.
  - This was **launched during the COVID pandemic** in April 2020.
  - Here, doctor to patient teleconsultation is offered free of cost to the patients.



DTE

Dec 7

BLACK SOIL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Geography)



CLIMATE CHANGE

Black soil in red: Climate change threatens world's food basket

FAO report finds most black soils moderate to severely eroded due to land-use change, unsustainable practices

NEXT NEWS >

By Shagun
Published: Tuesday 06 December 2022

Context: Black soils, which feed the global population, are **under threat**, with most losing at least half of their soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks, according to a new United Nations report.

- Land-use change, **unsustainable management practices and excessive use of agrochemicals** are to blame, found the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Key points

- **About Black soils**: These are characterised by a **thick, dark-coloured soil horizon** rich in organic matter.
- Black soils are extremely fertile and can **produce high agricultural yields** thanks to their elevated moisture storage capacity.
- **Soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks**: They **constitutes 5.6 per cent of global soils** and contain 8.2 per cent of the world's Soil organic carbon (SOC) stocks: Approximately 56 billion tonnes of carbon.
    - This signifies their **importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation**.
    - The **ability of the soils to remove carbon** from the atmosphere and lock it up in soil organic matter (called carbon sequestration) has been proposed as an important solution to mitigate human-induced climate change.
    - However, black soils are **quickly losing their SOC stocks.**
    - They have **lost 20 to 50 per cent of their original SOC stock,** with the carbon being released into the atmosphere mostly as carbon dioxide, exacerbating global warming, the report pointed out while quoting previous studies.
    - Black soils have the **potential to provide 10 per cent of the total SOC sequestration** globally if they receive proper attention.
    - **Europe and Eurasia have the highest potential** at over 65 per cent and Latin America and the Caribbean at around 10 per cent.
    - Black soils were **home to 2.86 per cent of the global population** and had 17.36 percent of cropland, 8.05 per cent of global SOC stock and 30.06 per cent SOC stock of global cropland/
- **Threats**: Most of the black soils **suffered from moderate to severe erosion processes**, as well as nutrient imbalances, acidification and biodiversity loss.
- **Significance**: Despite representing a small portion of the world's soils, black soils were **key for food security and the global economy.**
    - Globally in 2010, 66 percent of sunflower seeds, 51 percent of small millet, 42 percent of sugar beet, 30 percent of wheat and 26 percent of potatoes were harvested from black soils.
- **Distribution**: The distribution of black soil areas used as **croplands varied in each region.** Europe and Eurasia accounted for 70 per cent of the soil in the total cropland, while North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia had 10 per cent each.
- **Key recommendations in the report**: It put forward **tailored recommendations for farmers,** national governments, research and academia and the global platform International Network of Black Soils.
    - **Preserving natural vegetation on black soils** such as grasslands, forests and wetlands and adopting sustainable soil management approaches on cropped black soils were the two main goals highlighted by the report.

Black Soil in India

- Black soil is also known as **"Regur Soil" or the "Black Cotton Soil".**
- It covers about **15% of the total land area** of the country.
- It is the **third major group of soil** in India and forms the top part of the earth's surface, that includes disintegrated rock, humus, inorganic, and organic materials.
- It **covers most of the Deccan Plateau** – parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Tamil Nadu.
- In the **upper reaches of the Godavari and Krishna**, and the north-western part of Deccan Plateau, the black soil is very deep.
- Black soils are rich in **iron, lime, aluminium, magnesium and also contain potassium.** However, these soils are **deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus and organic matter.**
- **Cotton, pulses, millets, castor, tobacco, sugarcane, citrus fruits, linseed,** etc. are mainly cultivated in black soil.

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Dec 7

AMAZONIA FOR LIFE 80% BY 2025

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



ENVIRONMENT

Amazonian biodiversity: Indigenous convoy to bring focus to threats during Montreal summit

Non-profit Amazon Watch, among others, to participate in COP15 CBD

NEXT NEWS >

By Nandita Banerji
Published: Tuesday 06 December 2022



Context: A delegation of Indigenous Amazonians will be a part of the upcoming 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) for the **United Nations Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD)**.

- The delegation aims to draw attention to extractive industries, especially mining and fossil fuels, threatening biodiversity loss in the **Amazon rainforest and threatening human rights across the biome.**

Key points

- **Extreme events**: More than 75 percent of the Amazon rainforest has been **heading towards a tipping point since the early 2000s.**
  - It may be **losing its ability to bounce back from extreme events** such as drought or fire, threatening to become a dry savanna-like ecosystem.
- **Deforestation**: Deforestation is on the **rise in the region**. Between July 2021 and August 2022, 11.56 square kilometres of the Amazon were deforested.
- **Vegetation loss**: The Amazon region has **lost 10 percent of its native vegetation**, mostly tropical rainforest, in almost four decades.
  - The **Amazon rainforest is home to 30 percent of the world's species,** comprising 40,000 plant species, 16,000 tree species, 1,300 birds and more than 430 species of mammals.
- **International coalition Amazonia For Life (Amazonia for life 80% by 2025)**: It is calling for 80 per cent of the Amazon to be protected by 2025, which can only happen if world leaders hold country governments, corporations, and financiers of Amazon destruction accountable.
  - The Initiative "**Amazonia for life 80% by 2025**", launched by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, seeks to advert the tipping point in the largest forest on the planet.
  - At the IUCN Congress, Members approved motion 129, a call-to-action titled "Avoid the point of no return in the Amazon by protecting 80% by 2025."
  - **India became a State Member of IUCN** in 1969, through the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
  - The IUCN India Country Office was established in 2007 in New Delhi.

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