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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

Table of Contents

1. New Norms for FPIs
2. CITIIS 2.0 Program
3. Electronics Repair Pilot Project
4. Largest Grain Storage Plan
5. Irrigated Land
6. NCSC
7. PM-JAY
8. Himalayan brown bear
9. Budaun mosque
10. Guarani tribe

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

Disclosure norms for high-risk FPIs set to get stricter

To be unconstrained by any materiality thresholds set by PMLA or secrecy laws: Sebi paper

KHUSHBOO TIWARI
Mumbai, 31 May

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has proposed stricter disclosure norms for certain foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to bring in more transparency and trust against the backdrop of the Adani-Hindenburg Research saga.

Under the new norms, FPIs with an exposure of more than 50 per cent to a single group or with assets of over ₹25,000 crore will be tagged as 'high risk' and will be required to provide additional information such as full identification of their ownership, economic interests, and control rights. A failure to provide these disclosures will lead to invalidation of the FPI registration.

The move is to address concerns that certain promoters may be cornering additional shares to bypass the minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms.

"Such concentrated investments raise the concern and possibility that promoters of such corporate groups, or other investors acting in concert, could be using the FPI route for circumventing regulatory requirements such as that of maintaining MPS," Sebi said in a consultation paper on Wednesday.

With the proposed norms, the markets regulator wants to identify granular ownership details on a full look-through basis down to the level of natural persons or public retail funds or large public-listed corporates.

Turn to Page 6

CLEANING UP

Different types of FPIs with exposure to Indian markets

	AUC (₹ trn)	Share in total AUC (%)
Appropriately regulated fund	26.81	52.73
Pension fund	3.72	7.32
Unregulated fund whose investment manager is Category I FPI	3.67	7.21
Entity controlled or at least 75% owned by govt	3.65	7.18
Sovereign wealth fund	3.14	6.17
Central bank	1.63	3.21
Corporate body	1.23	2.42
Entity whose investment manager is Category I FPI from FATF member country	1.02	2.01
Unregulated fund – Limited partnership/ Trust	0.98	1.92
Appropriately regulated –Insurance or reinsurance entity	0.69	1.35
Total	50.85	100.00

AUC: Assets under custody
Note: Data as of April 2023; total also includes other sub-categories; The Sebi paper estimates FPI AUC of ₹2.6 trillion (6% of total) may be identified as high risk
Source: NSDL

Deloitte flags holes in Adani Ports deals

Deloitte flagged three transactions, including recoveries from a contractor identified in the Hindenburg report, as it issued a qualified opinion on the accounts of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone.

2

NEW NORMS FOR FPI

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed stricter disclosure norms for certain **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** to bring in more transparency and trust against the backdrop of the Adani Hindenburg Research saga.

New Norms for FPI

- Under the new norms, FPIs with an exposure of more than 50 per cent to a single group or with assets of over ₹ 25,000 crore will be **tagged as ´ high risk´** and will be required to provide additional information such as full identification of their ownership, economic interests, and control rights.
- A failure to provide these disclosures will lead to **invalidation of the FPI registration.**
- The move is to **address concerns** that certain promoters may be cornering additional shares **to bypass the minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms.**

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPIs)

- **About**: a common way to invest in overseas economies.
- **Examples of FPIs**: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange traded funds, American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs).
- **Part of BOP**: FPI is **part of a country's capital account** and is shown on its Balance of Payments (BOP).
    - The BOP measures the amount of money flowing from one country to other countries over one monetary year.
- **Not active shareholders**: They are **generally not active shareholders and do not exert any control over the companies** whose shares they hold.
    - FPI is **often referred to as "hot money"** because of its tendency to flee at the first signs of trouble in an economy.
    - FPI is more **liquid, volatile** and therefore **riskier** than FDI.

PIB June 1

CITIIS 2.0 PROGRAM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Cabinet approves City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0) from 2023 to 2027

Context: The Union Cabinet has approved the **City Investments to Innovate, Integrate and Sustain 2.0 (CITIIS 2.0).**

CITIIS 2.0 Program

- **About**: CITIIS 2.0 is a program conceived by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in partnership with the French Development Agency (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the European Union (EU), and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).
  - The program will run for a period of four years, i.e., from 2023 till 2027.
- **Origin**: CITIIS 2.0 aims to **leverage and scale up the learnings and successes of CITIIS 1.0.**
  - CITIIS 1.0 was **launched jointly in 2018 by MoHUA, AFD, EU, and NIUA,** with a total outlay of ₹933 crore (EUR 106 million).
  - CITIIS 1.0 consisted of three components:
    - **Component 1**: 12 city-level projects selected through a competitive process.
    - **Component 2:** Capacity-development activities in the State of Odisha.
    - **Component 3**: Promoting integrated urban management at the national level through activities undertaken by NIUA, which was the Program Management Unit (PMU) for CITIIS 1.0
- **Objectives**: The program envisages to **support competitively selected projects promoting circular economy** with focus on integrated waste management at the city level, climate-oriented reform actions at the State level, and institutional strengthening and knowledge dissemination at the National level.
  - CITIIS 2.0 will **supplement the climate actions of Government of India** through its ongoing National programs (National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, AMRUT 2.0, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 and Smart Cities Mission), as well as contributing positively to India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and Conference of the Parties (COP26) commitments.
- **Funding**: The f**unding for CITIIS 2.0 would include a loan of Rs.1760 crore (EUR 200 million)** from AFD and KfW (EUR 100 million each) and a technical assistance grant of Rs.106 cr. (EUR 12 million) from the EU.
- **Components under CITIIS 2.0**: CITIIS 2.0 has three major components:
  - **Component 1: Financial and technical support** for developing projects focused on building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation in up to 18 smart cities through selection of competitively selected projects promoting circular economy with focus on integrated waste management.
  - **Component 2: All States and UTs will be eligible for support on demand basis.** The States will be provided support to (a) set-up/strengthen their existing State climate centres/ Climate cells/ equivalents (b) create State and city level Climate Data Observatories (c) facilitate climate-data driven planning, develop climate action plans and (d) build capacities of municipal functionaries. To achieve these objectives, the PMU at NIUA will coordinate provision of technical assistance and strategic support to State Governments.
  - **Component 3: Interventions at all three levels; Centre, State and City** to further climate governance in urban India through institutional strengthening, knowledge dissemination, partnerships, building capacity, research and development to support scale up across all States and Cities.

PIB

June 1

ELECTRONICS REPAIR PILOT PROJECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)

MeitY launches pilot project on Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO)

Context: The Government launched the **Electronics Repair Services Outsourcing (ERSO)** Pilot initiative to validate certain transformational policy and process changes to make India the Repair Capital of the World.

- Compared to China, **India boasts a 57% cost advantage in the repair services sector**, and when compared to Malaysia, it offers a 26% cost advantage.

Key Points

- ERSO aims to **promote India as a hub for repairing electronic goods** and to assess the feasibility and potential of capturing 20% of the global repair service market within five years.
- The current value of the global repair service **market stands at a substantial $100 billion.**
- **Customs rules will be relaxed** to facilitate the import and export of electronics products.
- The r**epaired goods will not be permitted** to be sold in the domestic market.
    - New provisions will be made to **allow their exportation** to regions other than their country of origin.
- **India's e-waste policy** will be modified to enable repair companies to domestically recycle 5% of imported goods by weight on a trial basis.
- This **change will reduce logistics costs** associated with sending non-repairable products back for disposal.

INDIAN EXPRESS Page 8

LARGEST GRAIN STORAGE PLAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Nod for panel to set up 'largest' grain storage in co-op sector

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday approved forming and empowering an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to create the "world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector" by converging eight ongoing schemes of three ministries.

The Cabinet meeting was chaired by PM Narendra Modi.

Briefing the media on the Cabinet decision, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said, "We will start the world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector with an outlay of around Rs 1 lakh crore."

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah thanked the PM for approving the constitution of the IMC. "In order to ensure time-bound and uniform implementation of the Plan in a professional manner, Ministry of Cooperation will implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts," the government said in a statement.

"The Pilot would provide valuable insights into various regional requirements of the project, learnings from which will be suitably incorporated for country-wide implementation," it added.

It stated that an inter-ministerial committee (IMC) will be formed under the chairmanship of Minister of Cooperation, with ministers of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Food Processing Industries, and secretaries as members "to modify guidelines/implementation methodologies of schemes of the respective ministries as and when need arises". This, it stated, will be done "within the approved outlays and prescribed goals" to facilitate the "world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector" by creating infrastructure such as godown for agriculture and allied purposes at "selected 'viable' Primary Agricultural Credit Societies".

As per the statement, a national-level coordination panel will be formed within one week of the Cabinet's approval.

8 SCHEMES IDENTIFIED FOR CONVERGENCE

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)
- Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI)
- Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
- Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)

Ministry of Food Processing Industries
- Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- Allocation of food grains under the Food Security Act
- Procurement ops at MSP

Context: The Union Cabinet approved forming and empowering an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to create the **"world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector"** by converging eight ongoing schemes of three ministries.

Key Points

- In order to ensure time-bound and uniform implementation of the Plan in a professional manner, **Ministry of Cooperation** will implement a pilot project in at least 10 selected districts.
- The Pilot would **provide valuable insights into various regional requirements** of the project, learnings from which will be suitably incorporated for country-wide implementation of the Plan.
- An inter-ministerial committee (IMC) will be **formed under the chairmanship of Minister of Cooperation**, with ministers of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Food Processing Industries, and secretaries as members **"to modify guidelines/ implementation methodologies of schemes of the respective ministries as and when need arises".**
- This will be done "within the approved outlays and prescribed goals" **to facilitate the "world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector"** by creating infrastructure such as godown for agriculture and allied purposes at "selected 'viable' Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)".
- It aims to address not just **shortage of agricultural storage infrastructure** in the country by facilitating establishment of godown at the level of primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) but "would also enable PACS to undertake various other activities".

LIVE MINT

Page 2

IRRIGATION LAND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Agriculture)

Nearly 55% of farm land getting irrigation: NITI Aayog's Chand

Puja Das
puja.das@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

More than half of India's cultivated land now has access to assured irrigation, led by an expansion in micro-projects that use water more efficiently. In 2022-23, of the 210 million hectares of gross sown area, about 115 million hectares, or nearly 55%, had irrigation access, up from 47.8% in 2013-14, according to state-run think-tank Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand.

The increase in irrigation cover has been attributed to a massive expansion of land under agriculture, especially in the dryland farm zones of Telangana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka and a moderate increase in Uttar Pradesh, Chand told *Mint*. This is expected to help curb the rising impact of dry summers and patchy monsoons, which are partly linked to the climate crisis.

Agriculture accounts for about 80% of India's available water use of 700 billion cubic metres annually. The monsoon rainfall in June-September, which waters the kharif or summer-sown crops, plays a crucial role in farm production. Agriculture accounts for about 18% of the national economy and is the largest employer.



Agriculture accounts for about 80% of India's annual water use. HT

Since the inception of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in July 2015, the cultivated area under irrigation has been increasing by 1% each year. States are making more investments than the Centre to make the scheme fruitful, Chand added.

With the aim of "Har Khet Ko Paani", PMSKY is being implemented to expand the cultivated area with assured irrigation, reduce wastage of water and improve water use efficiency. PMKSY focuses not only on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also on creating protective irrigation by harnessing rainwater at micro level through "Jal Sanchay" and "Jal Sinchan". Micro irrigation is also incentivized through subsidy to ensure "Per drop-More crop".

In 2018-19 financial year, a ₹500 billion worth micro-irrigation fund (MIF) was created with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to help states mobilise resources. Under the fund, central assistance worth ₹127 billion has been released to states, out of which ₹118 billion was utilised in the financial year ended March.

The increase in irrigated area has been driven by five programmes and projects other than PMKSY. These are the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet Ko Paani-Surface Minor Irrigation, PMKSY-groundwater projects, special package for Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Srihind feeder and Shahpur-Kandi project.

Context: More than **half of India's cultivated land now has access to assured irrigation**, led by an expansion in micro-projects that use water more efficiently.

- In 2022-23, of the **210 million hectares of gross sown area,** about 115 million hectares, or nearly 55%, had irrigation access, up from 47.8% in 2013-14.

Key Points

- The **increase in irrigation cover** has been attributed to a massive expansion of land under agriculture, especially in the dryland farm zones of Telangana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka and a moderate increase in Uttar Pradesh.
- Since the inception of the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** in July 2015, the cultivated area under irrigation has been increasing by 1% each year.
- In 2018-19 financial year, a ₹500 billion worth **micro-irrigation fund (MIF)** was created with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to help states mobilise resources.
- Under the fund, **central assistance worth ₹127 billion** has been released to states, out of which ₹118 billion was utilised in the financial year ended March.
- The increase in irrigated area has been driven by five programmes and projects other than **PMKSY**.
    - These are the **Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP),** Har Khet Ko Paani-Surface Minor Irrigation, PMKSY-groundwater projects, special package for Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Srihind feeder and Shahpur-Kandi project.
- Of the total irrigation-infrastructure expansion, **micro irrigation facilities through sprinklers and drip systems** were installed in 8 million hectares.
- Out of the total irrigated area in the country, **40% is currently watered through canal networks,** and 60% through groundwater, which in several states has shrunk to severely depleted levels.
- India can create irrigation potential in **about 60% of its arable land** and 40% of the cultivable area will remain dependent on rainfall because it is not possible to create irrigation networks in certain regions because of hydrological and geographical reasons.

NCSC

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF SOCIALLY BACKWARD

12 PSU Banks Come Under National SC Commission's Lens

Reason: Central schemes' non-implementation, low disbursal of loans and non-filling of vacant posts

Nidhi.Sharma@timesgroup.com



FILE PHOTO

New Delhi: Twelve public sector banks have come under the National Commission for Scheduled Castes' scanner for non-implementation of central schemes, low loan disbursal and not filling vacant posts reserved for persons belonging to SC category.

NCSC has decided to review banks' performance in June to highlight the issues that directly impact economic empowerment of the socially backward SC communities. It has found that banks lack a mechanism to collate and report data on the implementation of central schemes and job vacancies.

Speaking to **ET**, NCSC chairman Vijay Sampla said: "Since there is no mechanism to collect data, we do not understand the extent of the problem. We will review banks' functioning on these aspects and make it mandatory for all branches of 12 public sector banks to collect data and report to the commission in October every year."

Since there is no mechanism to collect data, we do not understand the extent of the problem. We will review banks' functioning on these aspects and make it mandatory for all branches of 12 public sector banks to collect data and report to the commission in October every year

VIJAY SAMPLA *NCSC Chairman*

The review starting June 7 will examine two banks every week. A beginning will be made with Canara Bank and Indian Bank. Sampla said: "There are specific RBI guidelines on credit facilities for SCs. There is no awareness about these guidelines and this is why they are not implemented. This directly impacts the welfare of SCs."

NCSC's preliminary review in northeastern states had revealed that only 2% of loans disbursed were given to persons belonging to SC communities.

For several central government schemes, such as Rural Livelihoods Mission and Urban Livelihoods Mission, it is mandated that banks cover vulnerable sections — 50% of the beneficiaries being SCs. "NCSC has found in preliminary reviews that banks have not fulfilled the requirements laid down in RBI guidelines. A detailed review is required to set down procedures and a detailed reporting mechanism," said Sampla.

Under schemes such as differential rate of interest, banks provide loans up to ₹15,000 at a concessional interest rate of 4% per annum to the weaker sections for engaging in productive activities. A senior NCSC official said, "Experienced bank managers are aware of this scheme, not the new ones. There is a need to educate the bank personnel."

Context: Twelve public sector banks have come under the **National Commission for Scheduled Castes'** scanner for non-implementation of central schemes, low loan disbursal and not filling vacant posts reserved for persons belonging to SC category.

Key Points

- It has found that **banks lack a mechanism to collate and report data** on the implementation of central schemes and job vacancies.
- NCSC's preliminary review in northeastern states had revealed that **only 2% of loans disbursed** were given to persons belonging to SC communities.
- For several central government schemes, such as **Rural Livelihoods Mission and Urban Livelihoods Mission**, it is mandated that banks cover vulnerable sections - 50% of the beneficiaries being SCs.
- Under schemes such as differential rate of interest, banks provide **loans up to ₹15,000 at a concessional interest rate of 4% per annum** to the weaker sections for engaging in productive activities.
- NCSC has decided to **review banks' performance** in June to highlight the issues that directly impact economic empowerment of the socially backward SC communities.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- **About**: It is a **constitutional body** under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
  - **Article 338 of the Indian constitution** deals with National Commission for Scheduled Castes.
  - **Article 338 A** deals with National Commission for Scheduled tribes.
- **Objectives**: It was established **to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and Anglo Indian communities** to promote and protect their social, educational, economic and cultural interests, special provisions were made in the Constitution.

THE HINDU Page 14

PM-JAY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Health)

Treatment worth ₹61,501 cr. provided under PM-JAY scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The scheme being implemented by the NHA provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year

Cancer treatment, emergency care, orthopaedic and urology (kidney-related ailments) top the tertiary care specialities treatment availed by beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) till date, as per data released by the Health Ministry on Wednesday. The yojana has now recorded five crore hospital admissions amounting to ₹61,501 crore under the scheme.

Approximately 49% of Ayushman card recipients are women and over 48% of total authorised hospital admissions under the AB PM-JAY scheme have been availed by women, noted the data.

"Also, over 141 medical procedures under the PM-JAY are exclusively earmarked for women," it said, adding that AB PM-JAY beneficiaries can avail treatment corresponding to a total of 1,949 procedures under 27 different specialities The flagship scheme being implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiary families.

The AB PM-JAY is being implemented in 33 States and Union Territories except Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal. Till date, 23.39 crore beneficiaries have been verified and issued Ayushman cards for availing free treatment under the scheme.

The PM-JAY empanelled hospital network consists of 28,351 hospitals, including 12,824 private hospitals, across the country.

A senior Health Ministry official said the AB PM-JAY was launched with the vision to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

Context: Cancer treatment, emergency care, orthopaedic and urology (kidney-related ailments) top the tertiary care specialities treatment availed by beneficiaries under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** till date.

Key Points

- Approximately **49% of Ayushman card recipients are women** and over 48% of total authorised hospital admissions under the AB PM-JAY scheme have been availed by women.
- The flagship scheme being implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 12 crore beneficiary families.
- The AB PM-JAY is being **implemented in 33 States** and union territories **except Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal.**
- Under the AB PM-JAY, the beneficiaries are issued a **co-branded PVC Ayushman card.**
- During the year 2022-23, **approximately 56% of the total admissions** (by amount) have been authorised in private hospitals while 44% of the admissions have been authorised in public hospitals.
- From issuing 9.28 crore Ayushman cards to scheme beneficiaries to **achieving 100% allocated fund utilisation** and authorisation of 1.65 crore hospital admissions, the year 2022-23 has been full of accomplishments for the scheme.

DTE

June 1

BROWN BEAR (URSUS ARCTOS ISABELLINUS)

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)

Encroachment pushes Himalayan brown bears into Kashmir's villages

Improper disposal of food waste means that the bears are straying more often into human-dominated areas



Context: A Himalayan **brown bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus)** was captured by the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department at Rajwara in the North Kashmir district of Handwara, days after it was found wrecking graveyards, reportedly in search of human cadavers to eat.

Key Points

- One explanation for the bears' weird behaviour is the **insufficient food** in their habitats.
- A study revealed that **75 percent of food items in Himalayan brown bears' diet in Kashmir was scavenged** from garbage including plastic carry bags, milk powder, chocolate wrappers and biryani (rice and meat preparation).
- The normal food of brown bears is **insects, small crustaceans, alpine bulbs, roots of plants, shoots of young grasses, domestic goats, sheep and voles.**

About Brown Bear (Ursus arctos isabellinus)

- The Himalayan brown bear is the **largest mammal found in Kashmir,** with adult individuals weighing 250 kilograms or more.
- They inhabit **altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 metres,** predominantly above the tree line.
- Brown bears are **distributed worldwide** and include the famous Grizzly of North America.
- The northern mountains of **India and Pakistan** are home to the species' Himalayan variant, which is critically endangered.
- Himalayan brown bears are **found in various parts of the subcontinent,** including Pakistan, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- In India, **brown bears are present in 23 protected areas (PA)** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and the states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Their global number is estimated to be less than 1,000 and possibly half that in India.
- The Himalayan brown bears are **listed as "critically endangered"** in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.
- They are **nocturnal**, and their sense of smell is acutely developed and believed to be their principal means of finding food.
- The brown bear goes into **hibernation around October** and emerges around April and May.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 15

BUDAUN MOSQUE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Indian Art & Heritage)

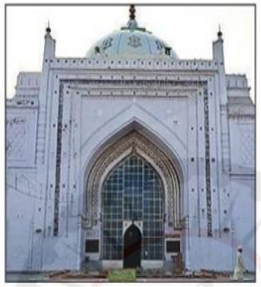
ASI: 1991 Act mandates 1947 status quo at Budaun mosque

Hindu Outfit Claims It Was Built After Razing Shiva Temple

Kanwardeep.Singh
@timesgroup.com

Bareilly: Responding to a petition filed by the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha (ABHM) on August 8 last year in a civil court of Budaun, in which they claimed that the 800-year-old Jama masjid in the district "was built after demolishing an ancient Shiva temple" and that the court should conduct a survey to confirm this, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) submitted that the mosque is protected under Places of Worship (special provisions) Act 1991, which mandates places of worship will stay as they stood on August 15, 1947.

The district government counsel (civil) Sanjeev Kumar Vaish, on behalf of the ASI and Centre, filed a reply in court. Kumar told **TOI**, "We have raised four objections and the court will decide whether the case is maintainable. First, the fact that the ASI Lucknow division was made a party in this case, while this mosque falls under the Meerut division of ASI. The second is that the mosque is protected under Places of Worship (special provisions) Act 1991. The third objection is that under sub section 3 of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act 1904, the government by notification in an official gazette had declared the mosque as a protected monument. The fourth objection was made under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958, which says the 'form' of protected monuments cannot be changed."



Muslims consider the 800-yr-old Jama masjid to be the birthplace of empress Razia Sultana

After hearing ABHM's petition, the court on September 2, 2021 ordered the registration of a civil case and had sought replies from the Intzamiya committee of Jama Masjid, UP Sunni Waqf Board, UP archaeology department, Union of India and UP government.

Advocate Vivek Kumar, representing ABHM, told **TOI**, "ASI submitted that the property belongs to them and that the petition deserves to be dismissed in the early stage, as per the provisions of section 7 and 11 of Civil Procedure Code (CPC). We say those sections are not applicable if the property has been acquired by ASI, as we only want permission to offer prayers inside the premises as per Hindu traditions. We will file our reply before next date of hearing."

Advocate Asrar Ahmad, who represented the Jama Masjid committee, said, "We are assessing the ASI's reply and will take steps soon."

The next date of hearing is July 30. The site is significant for Muslims as it is considered to be the birthplace of empress Razia Sultana and to Hindus as they believe the mosque was built after razing an ancient temple of Neelkanth.

Context: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) submitted that the Jama masjid in the Budaun district is protected under **Places of Worship (special provisions) Act 1991,** which mandates places of worship will stay as they stood on August 15, 1947.

Background

- A plea has been filed in a court in Budaun **claiming that Jama Masjid Shamsi in Badaun city is a temple of Lord Shiva** and seeking permission for followers of the Sanatan Dharma to offer prayers at the site.
- There have been several similar suits, including in **Mathura and Varanasi,** claiming that mosques there were sites of ancient Hindu temples.

Budaun mosque

- The masjid was **built by Iltutmish**, the ruler of Delhi Sultanate at that time.
- This masjid echoes **Persian and Afghan architecture.**
- The mosque is built on an elevated area called **Sotha Mohalla** and is considered the highest structure in the town of Badaun.
- It is also believed to be the **third oldest existing and seventh largest mosque** in the country, having a capacity of 23,500.
- It is also a **Monument of National Importance and a National Heritage Site.**

DTE

June 1

GUARANI TRIBE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Population & Associated Issues)

‘Legislated genocide’: Brazil’s new bill restricting recognition of tribal land sparks massive protests

Law will be devastating for indigenous rights, increase illegal deforestation, biodiversity loss, violence against forest dwellers, say experts

NEXT NEWS >

By Preetha Banerjee
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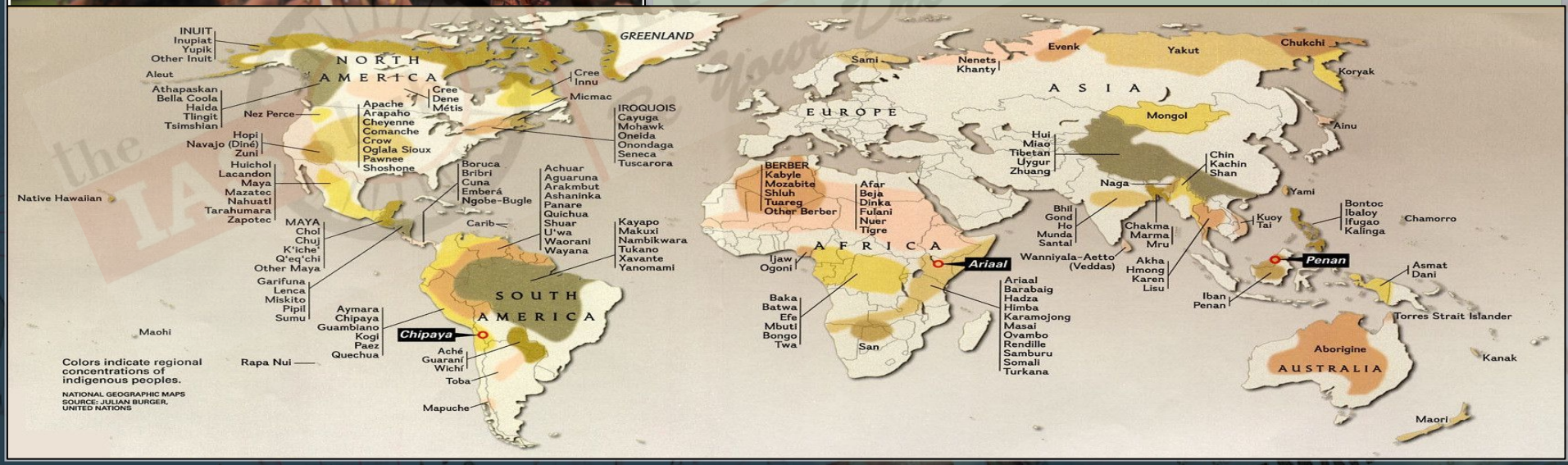


Context: Protests by **Guarani tribal people** have erupted across Brazil as the country’s Chamber of Deputies approved a new land bill that will restrict the new recognition of ancestral land of indigenous people.

- According to the new law, tribal **people can get recognition only for land** they have been occupying since before the constitution of the country came into effect in 1988.

Guarani tribe

- The **Guarani** were one of the first peoples contacted after Europeans arrived in **South America** around 500 years ago.
- In Brazil, there are today **around 51,000 Guarani living in seven states,** making them the country’s most numerous tribe. Many others live in neighboring Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina.
- The Guarani people in Brazil are divided into **three groups: Kaiowá, Ñandeva and M’byá,** of which the largest is the Kaiowá which means ‘forest people’.
- Guarani children **work on the sugar cane fields** which now cover much of their people's ancestral lands in Mato Grosso do Sul state.
- They are a **deeply spiritual people**.
- Most communities have a prayer house, and a religious leader, whose authority is based on prestige rather than formal power.



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