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THE HINDU Page 2

NARCO AND POLYGRAPH TESTS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

Mehrauli murder: police approach court to conduct narco test on Aftab

Test necessary as accused changing statements, not cooperating in the probe, say police; CCTV footage has been recovered from area where he allegedly dumped body parts, but is unclear; FSL officials say bones recovered from forest 'in abysmal condition', recovering victim's skull crucial

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police have sought permission from a local court to conduct a narco-analysis test on Aftab Poonawalla, 28, who is accused of killing his live-in partner – 27-year-old Shraddha Walkar.

A senior police officer said that the narco test was necessary because Aftab has been "changing his statements and not cooperating in the probe". The police are yet to receive permission for the test from the Saket court, the officer added.

Narco-analysis test

The test involves administering a drug (such as sodium pentothal, scopolamine and sodium amytal) intravenously, causing the subject to enter into various stages of anaesthesia. In the hypnotic stage, the subject becomes less inhibited and is more likely to divulge information. According to a 2010 Supreme Court judgment, the accused's consent is also needed to conduct such a test.

Aftab is accused of strangulating his live-in partner Shraddha on May 18, chopping her body into pieces, storing them in a fridge and, over a period of three months, dumping them in the Chhatarpur forest area.

A police officer said that CCTV footage from the area, where the accused used to allegedly go to dump the body parts, has been recovered and his movements have been captured. However, his activities in the video grab are unclear, the officer added.



Search for the victim's remaining body parts continued for the second consecutive day in Chhatarpur forest area on Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

Search continues

The search for the victim's remaining body parts continued for the second consecutive day in the Chhatarpur forest area on Wednesday. Delhi Police has recovered 13 bones, believed to be Shraddha's remains, from the forest area so far. Deepa Verma, director, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), which is examining the evidence, said, "The bones that have been recovered are in abysmal condition. That is why they will be examined and re-examined three to four times. If required, more experts will be called in."

The investigators have also lifted traces of blood from the flat where the couple used to live. The police have taken DNA samples of the victim's father to match them with the blood samples found in the flat. The police have still not been able to locate evidence in the form of the victim's head and her phone, through which the accused transferred money from the victim's account to his own a week after allegedly murdering her.

Sanjeev Gupta, assistant director, FSL, said the deceased's skull would prove to be a crucial piece of evidence for the prosecution. Ms. Verma said recovering DNA samples from a skull would be easier, which could come in handy during the trial. "The skull helps in establishing the deceased's identity, though DNA samples can also be taken from skin, bone and hair," she said.

Meanwhile, a Maharashtra Police officer on Wednesday said that the Delhi police have not contacted their counterparts in Vasai in Palghar district for further details after arresting Aftab.

'Unspeakable crime'

Bumble, the dating app where Aftab and Shraddha are believed to have come across each other, on Wednesday said the safety of its members is its top priority. A spokesperson said, "Everyone at Bumble is devastated to hear about this unspeakable crime, and our hearts are with Shraddha Walkar's family and loved ones. We will continue to follow closely and remain available to law enforcement should they request our support. The safety and well-being of our members is our top priority and we have a dedicated global team serving their needs."

Context: The Delhi police have sought permission from a local court to conduct a narco-analysis test on Aftab Poonawalla, 28, who is accused of killing his live-in partner - 27-year-old Shraddha Walkar.

Narco and Polygraph Tests

- **Narco analysis**: A statement made by the accused with the help of some **scientific tools** which may form a part of the Evidence against him.
  - Narco test **involves the injection of a drug**, sodium pentothal, which induces a hypnotic or sedated state in which the subject's imagination is neutralised, and they are expected to divulge true information.
- **Polygraph Test (Lie Detector Test)**: It is a procedure that m**easures and records several physiological indicators** such as blood pressure, pulse, respiration, and skin conductivity while a person is asked and answers a series of questions.
  - It is is based on the assumption.
- **P-300 test (Brain Mapping Test):** In this test, the activity of the brain of a suspect is **measured during interrogation t**o find out whether he is concealing any information.

Constitutional Basis

- **Violation of Article 20(3)**: It states that no person who is accused of an offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself, also referred to as the **right against self-incrimination.**
  - The right against self-incrimination is not guaranteed under the Constitution only but **also in the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).**
- **Violation of the Right to Privacy:** In addition, narco-analysis is also widely believed to be an intrusion of the **right to privacy** of an individual, a right that is guaranteed as a part of the right to life & personal liberty given under Article 21.

Legal Basis

- **Not admissibility in the law**: The Indian Evidence Act, 1871 which is the primary law on admissibility of evidence in a court of law is **silent with respect to narco analysis.**
- **Guidelines by NHRC**: The National Human Rights Commission in 1999 adopted a set of **guidelines relating to the administration of the Polygraph Test** which included consent, recording of the test, etc.

SC's Judgement

- **Selvi vs State of Karnataka case (2010)**: The Supreme Court ruled that **no lie detector tests should be administered without the consent of the accused.**
  - The results of the tests **cannot be considered to be "confessions"**, but any information or material subsequently discovered with the help of such a voluntarily-taken test can be admitted as evidence
- **D.K. Basu vs. State of West Bengal case (1997)**: The SC ruled that involuntary administration of the polygraph and narcos test will amount to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment in the context of **Article 21 or the Right to Life and Liberty.**

BUSINESS STANDARD

Page 1

EXERCISE MALABAR

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Malabar 22 draws to a close in Japan with tactical drills

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 16 November

The 26th edition of the multinational Exercise Malabar culminated in the seas off Japan on Friday, marking the 30th anniversary of the event hosted this year by the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).

Exercise Malabar began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise, featuring the maritime forces of the US and India. In 2014, the entry of the JMSDF made it a trilateral exercise. In 2020, the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) also joined Malabar, making it a quadrilateral exercise.

Beijing views Malabar as an anti-China grouping, formed by a "concert of democracies". However, public statements from the participating countries express the intention to safeguard the global commons and implement freedom of navigation, rather than joining forces against a common enemy.

The five-day-long event saw the participation of an Australian submarine, and 11 surface ships including a US Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with its integral air elements, along with four long-range maritime patrol aircraft, integral helicopters and two submarines. The exercise also involved exchange of "Sea Riders" between various participating ships.

The Indian Navy was represented by two warships from the Visakhapatnam-based Eastern Fleet — *Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik* and *Kamorta* led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. Indian maritime commandos (MARCOS) and a P-8I Poseidon maritime reconnaissance aircraft also took part.



INS Shivalik is a multi-role frigate and is the lead vessel of Project 17, which involved building three frigates in Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL), Mumbai. *INS Kamorta* is a sophisticated anti-submarine corvette and was built as part of a four-vessel Project 28 in Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

The Indian Navy was represented by two warships from the Visakhapatnam-based Eastern Fleet — Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and Kamorta

The sea phase of Malabar 2022 was conducted over five days near Yokosuka, Japan. A statement from the Hawaii-based United States Indo-Pacific Command said: "This year's at-sea exercise includes a variety of high-end tactical training events, submarine integration, anti-submarine warfare training, air defence exercises, multinational replenishment-at-sea operations, communications drills, joint warfighting planning scenarios, gunnery exercise, and maritime interdiction operations."

"This exercise represents an outstanding opportunity for our like-minded maritime forces to work together, demonstrating our shared commitment to the region and collaborative approach toward security and stability," said Rear Adm. Michael Donnelly, Commander Task Force 70/Carrier Strike Group Five. "Now, it is more important than ever for the forward-deployed Carrier Strike Group to work closely with other maritime forces and deter all who challenge a free and open Indo-Pacific."

US Navy forces that took part included Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 along with the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, guided-missile cruiser *USS Chancellorsville*, and guided-missile destroyer *USS Milius*.

JMSDF units that participated included *Japanese Ship (JS) Hyuga*, *JS Shiranui*, *JS Takanami*, *JS Oumi* along with a P-1 aircraft.

RAN participants included *His Majesty's Australian Ship (HMAS) Arunta* and *Stalwart* and submarine *HMAS Farncomb* along with a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) P-8A maritime patrol aircraft.

In addition to operational drills and exercises, the bilateral logistics support agreements between the participating countries were validated during this edition of Exercise Malabar. India and the US had signed a bilateral logistics support agreement — called Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement, or LEMOA — which was an India-specific version of the LSA that the US signs with all its partner countries.

The four participating navies also had the opportunity to rehearse communication drills and interoperability. India's signature of the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) agreement with the US in September 2018 has already opened the doors for the tactical communications needed for such operations.

Even outside the formal exercise structure, units of the four navies routinely operate together in the Indo-Pacific, fostering a cooperative approach toward regional security.

On September 15, 2000, the US further reinforced the military architecture for confronting China in the Indo-Pacific, joining hands with the UK and Australia to create an "enhanced trilateral security partnership" named AUKUS (Australia-UK-US).

Signalling that AUKUS meant business, its first announcement was that the UK and the US would provide Australia with the classified technology and wherewithal needed to build and operate up to eight nuclear-powered attack submarines.

In a statement issued after the exercise terminated, the Indian Ministry of Defence said: "The exercise helped enhance understanding of each other's operational methodologies and ability to co-operate to tackle myriad maritime challenges."

Context: The 26th edition of the multinational Exercise Malabar culminated in the seas off Japan on Nov 18, marking the 30th anniversary of the event hosted this year by the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).

Exercise Malabar

- **About**: It is a **trilateral naval exercise** but due to the participation of Australia in 2020 & 2021, it has become a quadrilateral exercise.
- **Origin**: It **started off in 1992** as a bilateral naval exercise between Indian and US navies.
  - The first Malabar Exercise in the Bay of Bengal took place in 2007.
  - In 2015, Japan joined the exercise Malabar, making it a trilateral naval exercise.
  - In 2020, the Australian Navy had joined the Malabar Exercise, making it a quadrilateral naval exercise.
    - Earlier, Australia joined the exercise in 2007.
- **Objective**: The aim of the Malabar Exercise of India, US, Japan and Australia is to coordinate for free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Locations**: It takes place annually in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Oceans alternatively.
- **Non-permanent members**: **Singapore and Australia** have been non-permanent members previously.
- **Activities:** This exercise includes a **diverse range of activities** such as fighter combat operations and maritime interdiction operations.

Other Naval Exercises

- **INDRA Exercise**: It is a **bi-annual bilateral exercise** between **India and Russia** that began in 2003.
- **Varuna Exercise**: It is an annual exercise between **India and France** usually held in the Indian Ocean or Mediterranean Sea. The last exercise was held in 2021 in the Arabian Sea.
- **Milan Exercise**: It is a biennial Multilateral event. The last exercise was held in 2018, had a participation of 16 countries. It is usually held in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- **IBSAMAR:** It is a maritime exercise held by **India, South Africa, and Brazil.**
- **SIMBEX**: Held annually between **India and Singapore** since 1994.
- **SLINEX**: Between **India and Sri Lanka.**

INDIAN EXPRESS

Page 2

PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Various Security Forces & Agencies & Their Mandate)

Consider for permanent commission 32 women ex-SSC officers: SC to IAF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 16

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday directed the Centre and the Indian Air Force to consider granting Permanent Commission to 32 retired women Short Service Commission (SSC) officers based on their suitability with purpose of giving them pensionary benefits.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices Hima Kohli and J B Pardiwala, however, refused to order their reinstatement on the ground that they were released from service way back — between 2006 and 2009. "Reinstatement cannot be a viable option keeping in mind the requirement related to exigencies of serving the nation," it said.

The bench said the women IAF officers, if found eligible by the IAF for grant of permanent commission, will be entitled to grant of one-time pensionary benefit from the date when they would have completed 20 years in service, if it had continued.

The CJI appreciated the IAF for taking a "fair approach" and told senior lawyer R Balasubramanian, appearing for the Centre and the Air Force, to convey the appreciation to the IAF chief and the government.

While granting relief to the former women IAF SSC officers, the bench said they had joined the services during 1993-1998 under the legitimate expectation in pursuance of the policy decision that they will be considered for grant of permanent commission after five years.

However, instead of being considered for the permanent service commission, they were granted extensions of six and four years successively and, before being released from service, finally during 2006 to 2009.

Context: The Supreme Court directed the Centre and the Indian Air Force to consider granting **Permanent Commission (PC) to 32 retired women Short Service Commission (SSC)** officers based on their suitability with the purpose of giving them pensionary benefits.

Permanent Commission

- **About:** It means a career in the Army **till the retirement age.** For PC, the entry is through National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune, Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun and OTA, Gaya.
- **Short Service Commission**: It provides an option to women for joining the Army and serving as a **Commissioned Officer for 10/14 years.**
    - After 10 years, a woman officer can either opt for a PC or opt-out or have the option of a 4 years extension, during which they can resign any time.

Women's Entry into Armed Forces

- **Origin**: The induction of women officers in the Army **started in 1992.** They were commissioned for a period of five years in certain chosen streams such as Army Education Corps, Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, and Corps of Engineers.
- **Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES)**: Recruits under the **Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES) had a shorter pre-commission** training period than their male counterparts who were commissioned under the Short Service Commission (SSC) scheme.
    - In 2006, the **WSES scheme was replaced with the SSC scheme**, which was extended to women officers. They were commissioned for a period of 10 years, extendable up to 14 years.
- **Permanent Commission for Women:** The **Ministry of Defence** has taken steps to ensure the implementation of the grant of PC to women officers in the Armed Forces.
    - **Indian Air Force:** All Branches, including Fighter Pilots, are open for female officers.
    - **Indian Navy**: All non-seagoing Branches/Cadre/Specialisation has been opened for induction of women officers through SSC.
    - **Indian Army:** Women officers are granted PC in the Indian Army in all the ten branches where women are inducted for SSC.
- **Extension**: In 2008, the government **extended the permanent commission to women in two branches** - Judge Advocate General (JAG) and Army Educational Corps (AEC).
- **SC Judgment (2020)**: The Supreme Court has ruled that the Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers are **eligible for the permanent commission** and command posts in the Army irrespective of their years of service.

LIVEMINT Page 10

ADVERTISING STANDARDS COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

'Education sector leads ad violation'



Education sector is the biggest violator of the advertising code. HT

The education sector continues to remain the biggest violator of the advertising code followed by personal care, food & beverages, healthcare, and gaming, categories, said a new report by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). In its half-yearly complaints report, advertising's self-regulatory body ASCI said the total number of complaints against various ads increased 14% between April and September this year compared to 2021-2022. During the period, it processed 3,340 complaints against 2764 advertisements that were in potential violation of the ASCI code, it said. Majority of the ads (nearly 55%), were spotted across the digital domain, followed by 39% in print and 5% on television. In the digital space, ASCI took up 32.8% of complaints from web, mobile apps, e-commerce, followed by 27.4% from Instagram and 24.3% from YouTube. The report said that education remained the most violative sector with 27% of the complaints related to both the classical education category and the ed tech sector. In its earlier report for FY21-22, ASCI had said the education companies made up 33% of all complaints by consumers.

VARUNI KHOSLA

Context: The education sector continues to remain the biggest violator of the advertising code followed by personal care, food & beverages, healthcare, and gaming, categories, said a new report by the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)

- **About**: A self-regulatory **voluntary organization** of the advertising industry.
- **Origin**: It was founded in 1985 and is an **Non-Governmental Organisations**.
- **Objective:** To **maintain and enhance the public's confidence in advertising**. Its mandate is that all advertising material must be truthful, legal and honest, decent and not objectify women, safe for consumers – especially children and fair to their competitors.
- **Institutional Framework:** ASCI's team consists of the Board of Governors, the Consumer Complaints Council (CCC) and its Secretariat.
    - ASCI also **have its own independent Secretariat** of 5 members which is headed by the Secretary General.
- **Only body to regulates the advertising content**: Apart from ASCI, there is **no other non governmental body in India which regulates the advertising content** that is released in India.
    - If an ad that is released in India seems objectionable, a person can write to ASCI with their complaint.
    - This **complaint will be deliberated on by the CCC after providing due process** to advertiser to defend the ad against the complaint and depending on whether the ad is in alignment with the ASCI code and law of the land, the complaint is upheld or not upheld and if upheld then the ad is voluntarily either withdrawn or modified.
- **Amendment**: In 2007, the Government of India amended the **Cable TV Network Rules' Advertising Code** by which ads which violate ASCI code cannot be permitted on TV.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 4

WINDFALL TAX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Govt Hikes Windfall Tax on Domestically Produced Crude

Our Bureau

New Delhi: India on Wednesday raised the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹10,200 per tonne from ₹9,500.

It slashed the special additional excise duty on the export of diesel to ₹10.50 per litre from ₹13.00.



The changes are effective November 17, according to a notification issued late Wednesday.

The duty on aviation turbine fuel exports remains unchanged at ₹5 a litre.

This is the ninth revision in rates since the introduction of the windfall tax on July 1.

The fortnightly revision in tax rates is based on the prevailing international prices of crude oil.

Context: India raised the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹ 10,200 per tonne from ₹9,500.

Windfall tax

- **About**: Windfall taxes are **designed to tax the profits a company derives from an external,** sometimes unprecedented event - for instance, the energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
  - Governments typically **levy a one-off tax retrospectively** over and above the normal rates of tax on such profits, called windfall tax.
  - These are p**rofits that cannot be attributed** to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business.
- **Definition**: The **United States Congressional Research Service (CRS) defines a windfall** as an "unearned, unanticipated gain in income through no additional effort or expense".
- **Rationale**: There have been **varying rationales for governments** worldwide to introduce windfall taxes, from redistribution of unexpected gains when high prices benefit producers at the expense of consumers, to funding social welfare schemes, and as a supplementary revenue stream for the government.
- **Issues with imposing such taxes**: Analysts say that companies are confident in investing in a sector if there is certainty and **stability in a tax regime.**
  - Since windfall taxes are imposed retrospectively and are often **influenced by unexpected events,** they can brew uncertainty in the market about future taxes.
  - Another issue is who should be taxed- o**nly the big companies responsible for the bulk of high-priced sales** or smaller companies as well- raising the question of whether producers with revenues or profits below a certain threshold should be exempt.



TIMES OF INDIA

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ART & CRAFT IN G20

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Modi gifts Italy PM Patan Patola dupatta

▶ Continued from P 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted an agate bowl, formed of chalcedonic-silica, which is found in underground mines of Rajpipla and Ratanpur in riverbeds, to the heads of France, Germany and Singapore. Agate's flexibility allows the craftsperson to transform the stone into a range of products. Agate can be used as home decor objects as well as fashion jewellery.

He gifted the Italian PM a Patan Patola dupatta packed in a decorative 'Sadeli' box. The complex motifs of this dupatta are inspired from the 'Rani ki Vav', a stepwell in Patan, built in 11th century AD, which is an architectural marvel known for its precision and beautiful sculptural panels.

Pithora paintings from Chhota Udaipur, Gujarat, were India's gift to Australia.

ANI



ANI

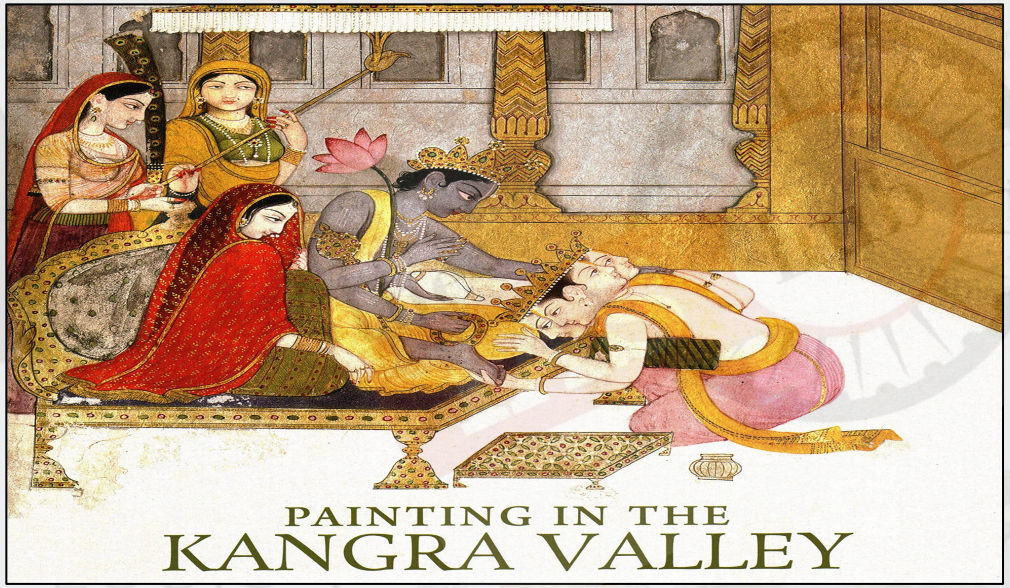


PM Modi gifted an agate bowl (above), formed of chalcedonic-silica, to the heads of France, Germany and Singapore. He gifted Mata Ni Pachedi (right), a handmade textile of Gujarat, to UK PM Rishi Sunak

These paintings depict cave paintings that tribals used to make, reflecting their social and cultural life and beliefs.

Over a metre long Kanal Brass set, played in parts of Himalayan India, was gifted to Spain. It is used on ceremonial occasions, such as the processions of village deities. It is also used to welcome leaders in the state. This traditional musical instrument is manufactured in Mandi and Kullu.

Modi gifted Indonesia, the host country, a silver bowl from Gujarat and a Kinnauri shawl from Himachal. The silver bowl is made by metalsmiths of Surat. The shawls are made using the extra-weft technique of weaving. Modi has used the custom of presenting gifts to world leaders to highlight India's rich artwork by presenting them with items associated with India's different regions.



Context: PM greeted the world leaders at the G20 Summit with gifts highlighting India's culture and arts, mostly from Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the two states which are going to the polls.

Art & craft in G20

- **Kangra miniature paintings**: PM gifted Kangra miniature paintings to US President **portraying 'Shringar Rasa' or depiction of love** on a natural backdrop.
  - The Kangra miniature paintings are made with **natural colours** by master painters from Himachal.
- **Mata Ni Pachedi**: He gifted UK PM 'Mata Ni Pachedi', a handmade textile of Gujarat, meant to be an offering in the temple shrines which house the Mother Goddess.
  - It derives its name from the **Gujarati** words **'mata' meaning 'mother goddess'**, 'ni' meaning belonging to, and 'pachedi' meaning backdrop.
- **Agate bowl**: Prime Minister gifted an agate bowl, formed of **chalcedonic-silica**, which is found in underground mines of **Rajpipla and Ratanpur in riverbeds**, to the heads of France, Germany and Singapore.
  - Agate's flexibility allows the craftsperson to transform the stone into a range of products.
  - Agate can be used as home decor objects as well as fashion jewellery.
- **Patan Patola dupatta**: He gifted the Italian PM a **Patan Patola dupatta packed in a decorative 'Sadeli' box.**
  - The complex motifs of this dupatta are inspired from the 'Rani ki Vav', a stepwell in Patan, built in 11th century AD,which is an architectural marvel known for its precision and beautiful sculptural panels.
- **Pithora paintings**: These paintings from **Chhota Udaipur, Gujarat**, were India's gift to Australia.
  - These paintings depict cave paintings that tribes used to make, reflecting their social and cultural life and beliefs.
- **Kanal Brass set:** Over a metre long Kanal Brass set, played in parts of **Himalayan India,** was gifted to Spain.
  - It is used on ceremonial occasions, such as the processions of village deities.
  - It is also used to welcome leaders in the state. This traditional musical instrument is manufactured in Mandi and Kullu.
- **Silver bowl and Kinnauri shawl**: PM gifted Indonesia, the host country, a **silver bowl** from Gujarat and a Kinnauri shawl from Himachal.
  - The silver bowl is made by **metalsmiths of Surat.**
  - The shawls are made using the extra-weft technique of weaving.

PIB

Nov 17

SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

SUGAMYA BHARAT ABHIYAN

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Context: Major achievement and Initiative since 2014.

Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign)

- **About**: The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, also known as the **Accessible India Campaign**, is a campaign which was launched to help the differently-abled community of the country in 2015.
  - India is a signatory to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).**
- **Nodal Ministry**: Ministry for Social justice and Empowerment.
- **3 Components & 7 Objectives:**
  - **Component A:** Build Environment Accessibility
    - **Objective 1**: Enhancing the proportion of accessible govt buildings
  - **Component B**: Transportation System Accessibility – Includes 3 objectives for enhancing the proportion of:
    - **Objective 2**: accessible airports
    - **Objective 3:** accessible railway stations
    - **Objective 4**: accessible public transport
  - **Component C:** Information and Communication Eco-system Accessibility – Includes 3 objectives for enhancing the proportion of:
    - **Objective 5**: public documents and websites as per the international accessibility standards
    - **Objective 6**: sign language interpreters
    - **Objective 7:** captioning and sign-language in public tv news programs
- **Key Features**: The campaign serves people under the **Persons with Disabilities Act,** which was launched in 1995.
  - The act **defines disability** as anybody who has Blindness, Low Vision, Leprosy, Hearing impairment, mental illness, and Locomotor disability, which generally means disability in legs, joints, and muscles.
  - It doesn't focus on buildings alone, **but also vehicles**.
    - The aim is to make at least fifty percent of the buildings to be disabled-friendly in each of the state capitals and the central capital, till May 2018, and make 25 percent of the public transports to be disabled-friendly by 2017.
    - By 2016, the plan was to make all airports disabled-friendly too.
- **Sugamya Bharat App**: Launched by **Ministry for Social justice and Empowerment.**
  - The mobile application is for sensitizing and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. ICT ecosystem, transportation sector, and built environment.
  - It will also be able to address the problems regarding Coronavirus faced by the differently-abled.

PIB

Nov 17

DIGITAL SHAKTI 4.0

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Government Policies & Interventions)

NCW launches Digital Shakti 4.0 focussing on making women digitally skilled and aware

Context: The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** launched the fourth phase of **Digital Shakti Campaign**, a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in the cyberspace.

Digital Shakti Campaign

- **About**: Digital Shakti Campaign is a pan-India project on digitally empowering and skilling women and girls in the cyberspace.
  - It is an initiative of the **National Commission for Women (NCW) in association with Cyber Peace Foundation and Facebook.**
- **Objectives**: It aims to train women and girls to use technology to their advantage and to keep themselves safe online.
- **Origin**: Digital Shakti started in June 2018 to help women across the nation to raise the awareness level on the digital front, to build resilience, and fight cyber-crime in the most effective ways.
- **Nodal ministry**: Ministry of **Women & Child Development.**
- **First Phase**: The first phase of the Digital Shakti campaign was **launched at Punjab University,** Chandigarh on June 18, 2018.
  - More than 135 workshops were organised on Online Safety and Digital Literacy.
  - Phase one successfully sensitised more than 60,000 girls and women across the six states in the country, namely Delhi, Haryana, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.
- **Second Phase**: In the second phase, the campaign was renamed the **'We Think Digital' – Digital Shakti campaign.**
  - It was launched on February 11, 2022.
  - An offline workshop was conducted during the launch ceremony, and over 300 women in Lucknow participated.
  - More than 160 workshops were conducted and over 1 lakh women and girls were trained on topics like – Understanding Data & Digital Footprints, Fighting Misinformation, Cybercrime and Redressal, and Responsible Online Behaviour.
- **Third Phase**: The third phase of the campaign was launched in Leh, **Ladakh on March 4, 2021.**
  - The campaign aimed at sensitising 1.5 lakh women and girls in the next year across the various states and regions in India.
  - In this phase, to increase digital literacy and online safety, they were trained on topics like – Data Privacy and Social Media Safety, Cyber Ethics and Digital Wellbeing, and Cyberlaw, **Cybercrime and Redressal.**
- **Fourth Phase**: NCW launched the fourth phase of the Digital Shakti campaign on November 15, 2022.
  - It aims at empowering girls and women to stand up against any inappropriate behaviour and event they may come across in the online space.
  - Digital Shakti 4.0 is aimed at **building capacity and developing skills in women and girls in the country.**

DTE

Nov 17

CHILD MARRIAGES IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Issue related to Women & Children)

GOVERNANCE

Teenage pregnancies in every 3 of 5 child brides, finds CRY

Non-profit study significant proportion of adolescent mothers had low-birth-weight babies

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By Nandita Banerji
Published: Tuesday 15 November 2022



Other acts related to marriages in India

- **Hindu Marriage Act, 1956**: Under Hindu Marriage Act, there are **no certain provisions** for punishing the parents or people who solemnized the marriage.
  - A girl can get the marriage annulled only if she wants to get married **before attaining the age of fifteen years and she challenges the marriage before turning eighteen.**
- **Muslim Personal Law**: Under the Muslim Laws, there is **no bar to child marriage.** The couple after marriage has an "option of puberty" known as Khayar-ul-bulugh in which they can repudiate the marriage after attaining the age of puberty.

Context: At least 1.5 million girls under 18 get married in India, according to the United Nations child rights body (UNICEF).

- Child marriage adversely **impacts children, and girls in particular**, in multiple ways, said the study by Child Rights and You (CRY) released Children's day November 14, 2002.

Key findings

- **Declining trend in India**: A **significant reduction in the prevalence of child marriage**, declining from 47 per cent in 2005-06 to 27 per cent in 2015-16, was stated by National Family Health Survey (NFHS-IV) 2015-16.
  - The **latest NFHS-V (2019-21)** indicated that close to one in every five, that is, 23.3 percent, women aged 20-24 years, married before 18 years of age.
  - Despite having laws and regulations in place, a substantial proportion — **every third adolescent girl in the age group of 15–19 years is married** and every second married adolescent girl has given birth to a child.
  - **Mean age at marriage of females** during child marriage is lowest in Uttar Pradesh (16.3 Years) followed by Odisha (16.5 years), Andhra Pradesh (16.6 years) and Maharashtra (17), while the national average stands at 16.5 years.
- **Reasons**: **Lack of or limited educational opportunities**, particularly for girls, forces them to drop out and puts them at risk of child marriage and the practice is more prominent among lower socioeconomic strata of society.
  - The study findings also reflect a **huge gap in the community's awareness level** about government protection systems and instruments in place and institutional mechanisms.
  - Active resistance of community members towards incidents of child marriage in their community and **reporting of such incidents** to the relevant government officials is essential in curtailing the practice of child marriage, the study found.
- **Steps taken by India:** India has taken **several steps to implement Goal 5 of sustainable development (child, early and forced marriage.)**, including the enactment of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, the analysis stated. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) was enacted to protect children from offences of sexual assault and sexual harassment.
  - **POCSO** does not consider any exceptions, even in cases of marriage, unlike the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Laws in India related to Child Marriages

- **Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929**: It is also known as the **Sarda Act.** It was a law enacted to restrain the practices of Child Marriage.
  - Its main goal was to eliminate the evils placed on young girls who could not handle the stress of married life and to avoid early deaths.
  - This act d**efined a male child as 21 years or younger** and a female child as 18 years or younger.
- **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act of 2006**: Under this act, the **marriageable age for a male is prescribed as 21 years** and that of a female is 18 years.
  - Child Marriage is prohibited in India as per the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

DTE

Nov 17

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK SOUTH ASIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)



GOVERNANCE

COP27: Kolkata presents climate action roadmap, announces city-level summit

Kolkata was the only Indian city at the meeting on urban climate resilience organised by the Climate Action Network South Asia

NEXT NEWS >

By Jayanta Basu
Published: Wednesday 16 November 2022

Context: Kolkata presented a report on its climate vulnerability as well as actions taken for mitigation and adaptation during a meeting at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** being held at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt.

Key Findings

- **Only city in India**: Kolkata was the **only city from the country part of the meeting focused on urban climate resilience** organised by the Climate Action Network South Asia.
  - The Kolkata Municipal Corporation **received the invitation** after recently announcing its support to the global pledge to cut fossil fuel – the first city corporation in India to take the step.
  - Recent global reports have highlighted the **vulnerability of Kolkata particularly due to its proximity to Sundarbans**; one of the world's major biodiversity hotspots.
- **Increasing risk:** Beyond 2040, climate change would lead to numerous risks and occurrence of multiple climate hazards, often in tandem
- **Loss of green cover**: Substantial green cover was lost **because of Cyclone Amphan.**
- **Inadequate resilience plan**: Limitations of resilience plans to **address vulnerability**.
- **Disaster mortality**: It is the most vulnerable to disaster-related mortality among eight megacities – **only one from India.**
- **Flooding**: It is third among the **20 largest coastal flood-prone global cities,** with highest estimated flood losses by 2050. The city also has a risk of subsidence because of sea-level rise and flooding. In future, rainfall may increase by 55 per cent.
- **Cyclone rise**: **Category 3-5 cyclones (extremely severe or super cyclones)** likely to increase in Sundarban, also affecting Kolkata
- **Inundation due to sea-level rise**: Bay of Bengal water **expected to rise 0.6 metres** by century-end; impacting Kolkata which already has an old and stressed drainage system
- **Highest temperature rise:** Warming in the city increased **by 2.6°C in the last six decades**, highest in the world followed by Tehran and Moscow
- **Further temperature rise**: Average temperature may rise **about 4.5 degrees by century-end,** while maximum temperature may touch about 50 degrees Celsius, if present trend of global emission continues.

UNFCCC

- **About**: It is the primary **multilateral treaty governing actions to combat climate change** through adaptation and mitigation efforts directed at control of emission of GreenHouse Gases (GHGs) that cause global warming.
  - It is the **Parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement** and 1997 Kyoto Protocol.
- **Legally non-binding agreement:** The treaty sets limits on GHG emissions in countries, but these are **not binding and there are no enforcement mechanisms either.**
  - However, there are provisions for updates or protocols that can be used to set legally binding emission limits on countries.
- **Meetings**: The parties to the convention meet annually in the Conference of the Parties or COP to review the progress under the convention.
- **Secretariat**: Bonn, **Germany**.

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