

10 July 2021: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

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Category: POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

1. Terrain, facilities will affect delimitation in J&K, says ECI

Context:

Delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K delimitation exercise:

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing the boundaries of a constituency that votes for a [Lok Sabha](#) seat on the **basis of population change over a period of time**.
- In the **erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir** (prior to August 5, 2019), **the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats was governed by the Indian Constitution**, but the **delimitation of its Assembly seats was governed separately by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution and Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir was kept out of the delimitation exercise** when it was carried out in the rest of the country between **2002-2008**.
- **After the abrogation of [Article 370](#) on August 5, 2019, Jammu and Kashmir lost its special status and became a Union Territory**.
- **A delimitation commission was constituted** and asked to carve out Assembly and Parliament seats.
- Jammu and Kashmir has been **under the Centre's rule since June 19, 2018**, following the collapse of the coalition government.
- The first consequence of the completion of the delimitation exercise would be the **restoration of the political process and eventually holding assembly polls in the UT**.
- It will be only **after the completion of the delimitation exercise that the elections for the Assembly will be held**.

Details:

- The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission will **base its final report on the 2011 Census**.
- It will take into account the **topography, difficult terrain, means of communication and convenience** available while **delimiting seven additional seats for the 83-member Assembly of the Union Territory (UT)**.
 - The earlier delimitation panels did not acknowledge the difficult terrains and people's difficulties.
- The Commission will also specify the number of seats to be reserved for the SCs and the STs in the Legislative Assembly of the U.T.
 - It will be for the **first time that seats will be reserved for the STs in J&K**.
 - J&K has already seven seats reserved for SC people, mainly in the Kathua-Samba belt in the Jammu region.

- It will be for the first time that STs, including **Bakerwals and Gujjars**, will get reservations in this delimitation exercise.
- The **24 seats reserved for Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)** would not be delimited in this process.

2. Cooperation Ministry will usurp States' rights: Oppn.

Context:

A new **Ministry of Co-operation** has been created.

Details:

- A separate 'Ministry of Co-operation' has been created by the government for realizing the **vision of 'Sahkar se Samriddhi'**.
- This ministry will provide a **separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country**.
- The Ministry will work to **streamline processes for 'Ease of doing business' for co-operatives** and enable the **development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS)**.
 - Significantly, the **MSCBs have now been solely taken under the Reserve Bank of India** for regulatory purposes.

Cooperative Societies:

- Cooperatives are organisations formed at the **grassroots level** by people to **harness the power of collective bargaining towards a common goal**.
- The history of cooperatives in India goes back to more than a hundred years and they continue to stay relevant due to their **grassroots reach and ability to bring economic growth to underserved sections**.

Laws governing cooperative societies:

- Cooperatives is a **State subject under entry 32 of the State List under Schedule 7** of the Constitution.
- A **majority of the cooperative societies are governed by laws in their respective states**, with a Cooperation Commissioner and the Registrar of Societies as their governing office.
- In 2002, the Centre passed a **Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act** that allowed for the registration of societies with operations **in more than one state**.
 - These are mostly banks, dairies and sugar mills whose area of operation spreads across states.

Issue:

- The cooperative model has been a **source of political power** in states such as Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.
 - Many of these cash-rich cooperatives are controlled by Opposition parties.

- The Opposition has raised concern over the development, stating that the new ministry would hijack the **cooperative movement that currently falls under the State governments.**

3. Judges should not act like emperors, says SC

Context:

The Supreme Court said that the judges should not behave like emperors and **summon government officials instantly without a good reason.**

Details:

- The SC bench noticed that a practice had developed in certain High Courts to call officers **instantly to exert direct or indirect pressure.**
- The SC has prescribed modesty and humility to judges by asking them **not to cross the line of separation of powers between the judiciary and the executive** and call officers to court unnecessarily.
- It observed that summoning of officers frequently is not appreciable at all and it is liable to be condemned in the strongest words.
- It noted that at times, when officials have to travel great distances and wait for hours in court, their **official work was delayed**, creating an **extra burden on the officer.**
- It argued that the courts have the power of the pen, which is more effective than the presence of an officer in Court. If any particular issue arises for consideration before the Court, and the advocate representing the State is not able to answer, **it is advised to write such doubt in the order and give time to the State or its officers to respond.**

Read more on [Separation of Powers – Relationship between Executive, Legislature & Judiciary](#)

Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. A perception shift in relations between Sri Lanka and China?

Context:

China is coming under increasing public scrutiny in Sri Lanka.

China's assistance to Sri Lanka:

- China has topped the charts in **providing crucial and timely support for Sri Lanka.**
- In addition to sanctioning loans and a **currency swap facility worth more than \$2 billion since the pandemic struck**, China also announced a **\$90 million grant to Sri Lanka in October 2020.**
- China's earlier grant projects in Sri Lanka are also built as large public spaces. Eg: Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall in Colombo, Nelum Pokuna Mahinda Rajapaksa Theatre.
- Former President Maithripala Sirisena had requested China for the grant and the China-Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital facility was built within 30 months.
 - The hospital is built with a **Chinese grant of \$60 million** and is said to be one of the largest in South Asia for nephrology care.

Details:

- China is under more public scrutiny in the island nation than ever before. **The growing scepticism of China, in public discourse and the media, is relatively new.**
- The sentiment came to the fore when the Sri Lankan government passed a controversial bill governing the China-backed Colombo Port City.

This topic has been covered in [May 21st, 2021 CNA](#).

- Recently, controversies erupted over **signboards in public places and government offices** that **included mandarin while excluding Tamil**, a national language in Sri Lanka.

What has changed in how Sri Lankans perceive their country's relationship with China?

- Sri Lanka has maintained friendly relations with maritime nations, including China, since ancient times. **Such relations have always had a sense of strategic content.**
- However, the **traditional friendship between Sri Lanka and China** has now become more nuanced with unique, unprecedented characteristics in the bilateral relationship, **displaying a special partnership**, especially at the level of two governments.
- While the **port city is a good investment for Sri Lanka**, many in the island nation see it as a **Chinese colony**.
- The port city bill was passed **without discussions with all domestic stakeholders and consensus**.

Conclusion:

- The Tamils in Sri Lanka acknowledge India's geopolitical concerns. They are of the sentiment that **India is immediate family and China is a distant relative**.
- Opposition parties in Sri Lanka assert that China must **acknowledge the Tamils** and also that **Sri Lanka is a diverse country with different ethnic and religious groups, not an entirely Sinhala-Buddhist country**.

Category: HEALTH

1. Kerala formulates action plan for Zika

Context:

The Kerala Health Department has formulated an action plan for coordinated efforts to check the spread of Zika infection in the State.

- The department is set to launch **intensive control measures across all districts**, with a focus on mosquito control.
- The control measures will concentrate on all geographic localities where **high Aedes species density is reported**.

Zika Virus:

- Zika Virus infection is caused by the Zika Virus (ZIKV) belonging to the **Flaviviridae family**.

- It is an infection transmitted through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

Read more on [Zika Virus – Causes, Symptoms, Outbreaks](#)

2. State resumes immunisation against filariasis

Context:

The Maharashtra government has flagged off its mass drug administration drive for the **elimination of lymphatic filariasis**.

Details:

- Maharashtra has **18 filariasis endemic districts**.
- The Maharashtra Health Services has organised the drive in coordination with **Global Health Strategies, World Health Organization, and Project Concern International**.
- Mass drug administration is one of the **two pillars of the National Programme for Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis**.
 - Under this, **anti-filaria drugs** are administered to the eligible population once a year.

Read more on [Neglected Tropical Diseases](#).

Lymphatic Filariasis:

- Lymphatic Filariasis also called **elephantiasis** is a **vector-borne disease**, spread by the bite of **mosquitoes and black flies**.
- It is a parasitic disease caused by **filial worms (parasitic worms)**.
- In the human body, the disease parasite is acquired during childhood causing **gradual damage in the lymphatic system**.
- The larvae of the filial worms can live in the human body **without showing any symptoms for up to 8 years**.

C. GS 3 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

D. GS 4 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

E. Editorials

Category: POLITY

1. The bar on criticism that muzzles the advocate

Bar Council of India

- It was established by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961.

Functions:

- To lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
- To lay down the procedure to be followed by its disciplinary committee and the disciplinary committees of each State Bar Council.
- To safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates.
- To promote and support law reform.
- To promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education. This is done in consultation with the Universities in India imparting legal education and the State Bar Councils.
- To recognise Universities whose degree in law shall be a qualification for enrolment as an advocate. The Bar Council of India visits and inspects Universities, or directs the State Bar Councils to visit and inspect Universities for this purpose.

Context

- The Bar Council of India (BCI) has introduced changes in the rules that govern the professional conduct and etiquette of advocates.
- The objective of these amendments is to improve the Standards of Professional Conduct.

Details

- The notification said an Advocate shall conduct himself/herself as a gentleman/gentle lady in his/her day to day life and he/she shall not do any unlawful act.
- He/she shall not make any statement in the Print, Electronic or Social Media, which is indecent or derogatory, defamatory or motivated, malicious or mischievous against any Court or Judge or any member of Judiciary, or against State Bar Council or Bar Council of India.
- Nor shall any Advocate engaged in any willful violation, disregard or defiance of any resolution or order of the State Bar Council or Bar Council of India and any such act/conduct shall amount to misconduct.

Penalty for rule violation

- The act of criticism shall result in suspension or removal of membership of such members from the Bar Council.
- Advocates who violate the rules can be disqualified from contesting in bar association or council elections for any period of time, “depending on the gravity of the misconduct”.

Exception

- However, the notification clarified that a healthy and bonafide criticism made in good faith, shall not be treated as a “misconduct”.

Temporary hold

- After the amendments were notified cases were filed in various high courts questioning the changes.

- It is currently being reviewed by a committee comprising senior advocates, members of bar associations and the Bar Council of India.
- The amendments also require the Chief Justice of India's approval before coming into effect, which has not yet been obtained.

Concerns

- These rules run counter to constitutional guarantees of free speech and the freedom of profession.
- This will have a debilitating impact on the advocates and their careers could be in trouble.

Conclusion

- Advocates are the torch bearers of change and question the redundant practices prevalent in the justice delivery system. Therefore, before such rules are considered it has to be reviewed, as such rules may have a chilling effect on [freedom of speech](#).

Category: ECONOMY

1. In defence of India's noisy democracy

Context

- The article draws a comparison between the political system prevalent in India and China. It analyses the authoritarian Chinese model of efficiency, but supports the democratic ideas and values.

China's Economic Rise

- China's economy has transformed enormously from being a poor country to a Global Powerhouse with no parallel in history.
- It has recorded high rates of economic growth, focused on capital accumulation, powered an export engine to overcome a limited domestic market, welcomed foreign direct investment, plugged into global supply chains and kept its public finances more or less in order.
- This has resulted in hundreds of millions being lifted out of poverty.

India's Development Story

- Despite impressive growth since the 1990s, it continues to be behind China in its global competitiveness.

Issue Area

- Poverty has come down, but employment prospects for the majority remain limited to low-wage informal sector jobs.
- India has fallen behind Bangladesh and Pakistan in a few social development indicators as well.

The drop in social development indicators has allowed many to question the democratic model of development; instead they have supported the Chinese model of development.

Arguments in favour of the China Model

- China is able to take decisions quickly as it is not stopped by the contradictory democratic voices. India's problem is that it is just too democratic.

Arguments against the China Model

East Asian Countries

- China's model comprises a number of key characteristics, State-guided industrial policy and finance; massive infrastructure investments; rural industrialization and openness to foreign trade and technology.
- Similar standards were also met by countries like Japan and South Korea.
 - Democratic regimes have on balance performed better.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu Model

- Kerala and Tamil Nadu have done more to improve the lives of all their citizens across castes and classes than any other State in India.
- These states have also had the longest and most sustained popular democratic movements and intense party competition in the country.

Conflict resolution

- Democracy is, slow and often contentious. But its deliberative and electoral processes help mitigate conflicts, especially in heterogeneous and conflict-ridden societies.
- Even in a more homogeneous country like China, the absence of open public discourse does the opposite, as evidenced by the State's mishandling of ethnic unrest among Tibetans and Uighurs.
- Respect for Minorities and diversity.
- India's democracy may have been quarrelsome, cumbersome and often dominated by elites, but it has preserved individual liberties, group identities and religious and thought freedoms.

Strong civil society

- Without a strong civil society or an independent judiciary to check government power, Chinese leaders have, on many occasions, made errors in judgment.
 - Judicial decisions overturn Government excesses in democratic countries. China lacks such resilience.
- Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward or the Cultural Revolution is an example, which has resulted in the loss of lives.
 - The human cost of Chinese success is enormous and unacceptable.

Transparency

- The absence of political checks and institutional mechanisms for public scrutiny has encouraged abuse of power and high levels of corruption, contributing to high inequality, arbitrary land grabs, unsafe working conditions, food safety scares, and toxic pollution, among other problems.

- As China's economy becomes more complex, the absence of transparent and accountable governance processes, combined with frequent crackdowns on civil society and efforts to enforce conformity and discipline, may stifle entrepreneurship and innovation.

Negotiation

- Democracy may complicate the process leading to needless debates and discussions, but these deliberations allow for forms of negotiation and compromise that can bridge across interests and even balance otherwise conflicting imperatives for growth, justice, sustainability and social inclusion.
- Examples:
 - National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
 - The Right to Information
 - The right to food

Conclusion

- India's pluralistic democracy has increased political awareness and self-assertion, our independent judiciary, Election Commission and regulatory bodies function with a degree of autonomy.
- Therefore, instead of looking up to China, it is time to defend the noise of Indian democracy.

Category: GOVERNANCE

1. Ending the shift between Jammu and Kashmir

Durbar Move

- It is a bi-annual shifting of the Civil Secretariat and other offices of the state government from Jammu to Srinagar in summer, and vice versa in winter.
- Jammu is the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, while Srinagar is its summer capital.

Background

- The tradition of switching the capitals twice a year is believed to have been started during Dogra rule in 1872 by Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who ruled Jammu and Kashmir from 1856 until his death in 1885.
- The main aim of the Darbar Move was to escape the extreme weather conditions – Jammu's searing heat and Srinagar's bitter cold.
- The secretariat would function for six months each in Jammu and Srinagar.

Significance

- It helped in generating economic activity in both Jammu and Srinagar and would act as a bridge for the two culturally and linguistically different regions.
- It is generally understood that the Durbar Move was started to take the administration to the doorstep of the people of Kashmir which is closer to Ladakh. During summer, ruling from Kashmir also helped in ensuring adequate supplies to Ladakh.
- The practice also enabled greater interaction and bonding among the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

Concerns

- The exercise would cost the government nearly Rs 200 crore.
- The Jammu & Kashmir High Court in 2020 observed that there was no legal justification or constitutional basis for the Darbar Move tradition.
 - It said Darbar Move resulted in the “wastage of tremendous amount of time, efforts and energy on an inefficient and unnecessary activity.”

Context

- Governor Manoj Sinha has recently confirmed that the administration had completed the transition to e-office. Hence there was no need to continue the practice of the biennial ‘Darbar Move’ of the government offices.
- All officers allotted the ‘Darbar Move’ accommodation at Jammu and Srinagar have been asked to vacate the same.
- The decision to end the biennial ‘Darbar Move’ will save the exchequer Rs 200 crore each year. Government offices will now function normally at both Jammu and Srinagar.

F. Prelims Facts

Nothing here for today!!!

G. Tidbits

1. Himalayan yaks to be insured

What's in News?

The **National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY)** at Dirang in West Kameng district, **Arunachal Pradesh**, has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring their livestock.

Issue:

- **Climate change and changes in the weather pattern** have been reported from the yak rearing areas throughout the country.
- The nationwide population trend shows that the **yak population has been decreasing at an alarming rate.**

Details:

- The high-altitude yak, feeling the **climate change heat across the Himalayan belt**, will be insured.
- The insurance policy would shield the yak owners against the risks posed by **weather calamities, diseases, in-transit mishaps, surgical operations and strikes or riots.**

Note:

- The **total yak population in India is about 58,000.**

- They are present in the Union Territories of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand.

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements about Speaker of Assembly:

1. He can summon, adjourn the assembly or suspend the meeting in the absence of a quorum.
2. He decides whether a bill is a Money Bill or not and his decision on this question is final.
3. He decides on the question of disqualification of members of the state legislature in consultation with the Election Commission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 2 and 3 only

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The speaker has the power to adjourn the assembly or suspend the meeting in the absence of a quorum.
- The power to summon the assembly is given to the Governor.
- The speaker decides whether a bill is a Money Bill or not and his decision on this question is final.
- Governor decides on the question of disqualification of members of the state legislature in consultation with the Election Commission. However, in case of disqualification of a member on the ground of defection under the anti-defection law, the power is with the speaker.

Q2. With reference to Lymphatic filariasis, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a neglected tropical disease.
2. It is spread from person to person by mosquitoes.
3. Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis was established by the WHO.

Options:

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Lymphatic filariasis is a Neglected Tropical Disease.
- The causative organism for Filariasis is a roundworm of the *Filarioidea* type.
- Lymphatic Filariasis, also called elephantiasis, is a vector-borne disease, spread by the bite of mosquitoes and black flies.
- It is a parasitic disease caused by filial worms (parasitic worms).
- In the human body, the disease parasite is acquired during childhood causing gradual damage in the lymphatic system.
- Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis was established by the World Health Organisation.

Q3. Consider the following statements with respect to National Green Tribunal:

1. It has its presence in four zones only.
2. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.
3. Engaging an advocate is compulsory to approach the Tribunal.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c

Explanation:

- National Green Tribunal has five zones – North, south, east, west and central zones.
- The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone and is headquartered in Delhi.
- Engaging an advocate is not compulsory to approach the Tribunal. A party can fight his/her own case without an advocate, in the NGT.

Read more: [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\) – Objectives, Members, Chairman & Headquarters.](#)

Q4. Which of the following statements about Chandra Shekhar Azad is/are correct?

1. He was involved in the Kakori Conspiracy.
2. Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was formed by Ram Prasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Chandra Shekhar Azad.

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None

Answer: a

Explanation:

- Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was formed by Ram Prasad Bismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Sachindra Nath Bakshi in 1923.
- In 1928, it was restructured into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association by Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad.
- Chandrashekhar Azad was involved in the Kakori Conspiracy.

Q5. In the context of global oil prices, 'Brent crude oil' is frequently referred to in the news. What does this term imply? (2011)

- 1. It is a major classification of crude oil.
- 2. It is sourced from the North Sea.
- 3. It does not contain sulphur.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 2 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Explanation:

Brent crude oil is a major classification of crude oil. It is sourced from the North Sea. The Brent crude oil also contains sulphur.

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

- 1. Is democracy an impediment to growth? Critically analyse. (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-2, Polity and Governance]
- 2. What is delimitation? What challenges are to be anticipated in the ongoing delimitation exercise for Jammu & Kashmir? (250 words; 15 marks) [GS-2, Polity and Governance]