

12 Aug 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis

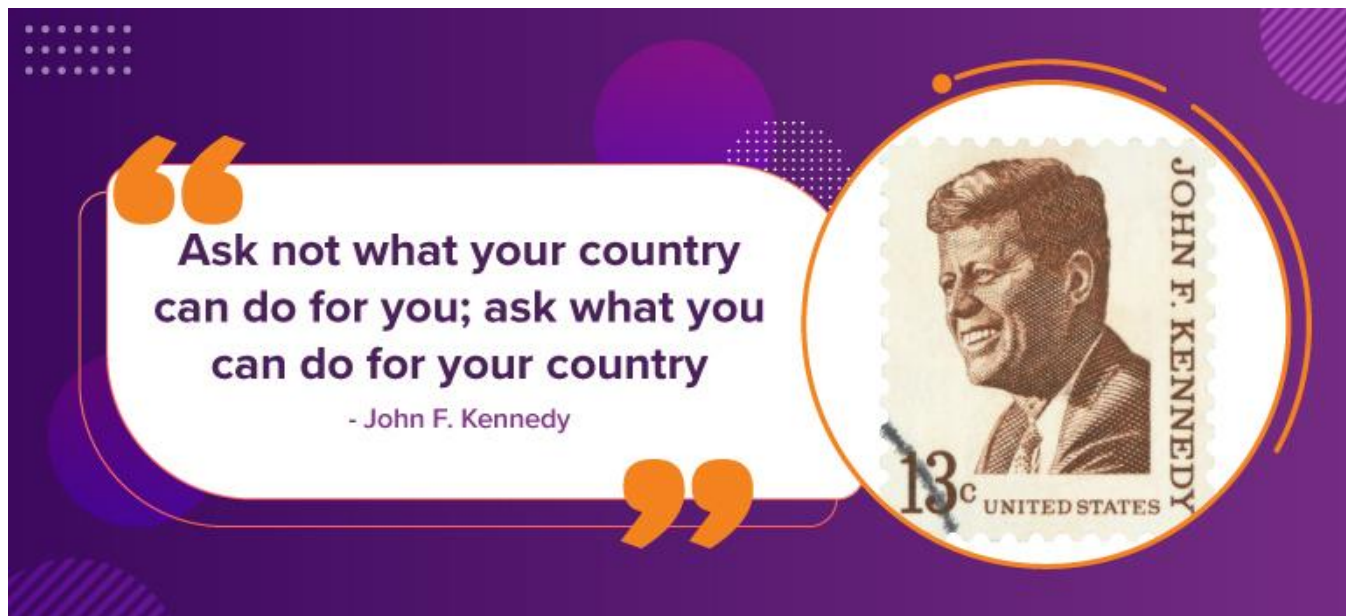


TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>A. GS 1 Related</u>
<u>B. GS 2 Related</u>
GOVERNANCE
1. Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022
SOCIAL JUSTICE
1. Drug Shortages
<u>C. GS 3 Related</u>
<u>D. GS 4 Related</u>
<u>E. Editorials</u>
SOCIAL JUSTICE
1. Survey data on poverty and broad policy pointers
<u>F. Prelims Facts</u>
1. Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021
<u>G. Tidbits</u>
<u>H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions</u>
<u>I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions</u>

A. GS 1 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

Category: GOVERNANCE**1. Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022**

Syllabus: Government policies and interventions

Mains: Reforms in Criminal Procedure laws

Context: According to the Union Home Affairs Ministry's notification, the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 came into effect on August 4, 2022.

Introduction:

- The Act gives legal sanction to law enforcement agencies for “taking measurements of convicts and other persons for the purposes of identification and investigation of criminal matters”.
- It also repeals the existing Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920.

Read more on the [Provisions of Criminal Procedure \(Identification\) Act, 2022.](#)

Need for identification details in criminal trials:

- To determine the identity of the culprit against the person being arrested.
- To easily detect suspected repetition of similar offenses by the same person.
- To establish a previous conviction.

Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920

- The Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 was enacted when the recording of novel forms of evidence such as fingerprints, footprints and other measurements started becoming more reliable and accurate.
- It was to overcome increasing instances of prisoners refusing to allow their fingerprints or photographs to be recorded.

What was the need to replace the original act?

- The Supreme Court highlighted the need for an amendment to this law in the State of UP vs Ram Babu Misra case, 1980.

- Following this, the 87th Law Commission report in 1980 undertook a review of this law and recommended several amendments to extend the scope of the law.
- The Law Commission Report also notes that the need for an amendment is reflected by the numerous amendments made to the Act by several States.
- Advancements in forensics facilitated various types of “measurements” which are not in the parent Act that can be used by law enforcement agencies for investigation.

Comparison between both Acts:



A comparison between the two Identification Acts

The previous Identification of Prisoners Act, 1920 and the freshly notified Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 have similarities as well as major differences. A quick look at how "measurements" of convicts and arrested persons will be collected from now on

Relevant provisions	Identification of Prisoners Act	Criminal Procedure Identification Act
Persons whose measurements can be taken	should be convicted of an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or upwards	if convicted of an offence punishable under any law
	should be arrested for an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or upwards	if arrested for an offence punishable under any law or if detained under preventive detention laws
	if directed by the Magistrate for measurements to be taken for the purposes of investigation of proceedings under the CrPC, provided the person has been arrested in connection with such investigation previously	if directed by the Magistrate for measurements to be taken for the purposes of investigation of proceedings under the CrPC or any other law in force; there is no requirement for the person to have been arrested in connection with such proceedings previously
	ordered to give security for his good behaviour under CrPC	ordered to give security for his good behaviour under CrPC
Measurements that can be taken	finger impressions, foot impressions, measurements and photographs	finger-impressions, palm-print impressions, foot-print impressions, photographs; iris and retina scan; physical, biological samples and their analysis; behavioural attributes including signatures, handwriting or any other examination referred to in section 53 or section 53A of the CrPC, 1973
Destruction of measurements	in case of acquittal, discharge or release, if not previously convicted of any offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment of one year or upwards	in case of acquittal, discharge or release, if not previously convicted of any offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for any term. For convicts, records are to be destroyed from 75 years of collection

Image Source: The Hindu

Conclusion: Even though the police have powers of arrest, the mere arrest does not give them the right to search a person. The police require legal sanctions to search the person and collect evidence. These legal sanctions are designed so as to maintain a balance between the rights of an individual and the interests of society in the prosecution and prevention of offenses.

Nut Graf: The recently notified Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 that seeks to address various issues of the outdated parent law is facing opposition because of the concerns of privacy and ambiguity. These need to be addressed by the associated Rules balancing the rights of individuals and the interests of society.

Category: SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. Drug Shortages

Syllabus: Health-related issues

Mains: HIV treatment protocol

Context: People have been protesting outside the [National AIDS Control Organization \(NACO\)](#) office for over 15 days against drug shortages for HIV-positive people.

What is the Issue?

- Protestors allege arbitrary change in the drug regimen, rationing of medicines, and even complete deprivation of life-saving pediatric drugs leading to interruption in treatment resulting in drug resistance and deaths from AIDS.
- In December 2021, various states across the country started witnessing a shortage of certain drugs such as Dolutegravir 50 mg, Lopinavir/Ritonavir (adult and child doses), and Abacavir at the antiretroviral therapy (ART) centres.
- The NACO is a nodal agency responsible for overlooking and coordinating activities of the National AIDS Control Programme. It functions under the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry.
- As per data provided by NACO, 95% of the recipients had not faced any shortage. This means 5% of 14.5 lakh that is 72,500 people, are being affected by the current shortage and stock-out.
- There are several complaints of NACO not considering the treatment protocol.

Treatment Protocol: Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

- ART is the medication used to stop HIV from reproducing.
- If the individual takes ART as prescribed, their viral load can become undetectable and CD4 cells will be protected to a certain extent.
- If the HIV stays undetectable, the infected individuals can live long, healthy lives and have effectively no risk of transmitting HIV to others.

- The standard treatment consists of a combination of a minimum of 3 drugs that suppress HIV replication. Three drugs are used in order to reduce the likelihood of the virus developing resistance.

Components of ART therapy

- A combination of 3 or more antiretroviral medicines is more effective by WHO standards
 - Nucleoside/nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors - abacavir, emtricitabine, and tenofovir.
 - Protease inhibitors (PIs) - atazanavir, darunavir, and ritonavir.
 - Non Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) - efavirenz, etravirine, and nevirapine.
 - Integrase inhibitors - dolutegravir and raltegravir.
 - Entry inhibitors - enfuvirtide and maraviroc.

Response by the administration:

- NACO has requested all State AIDS Control Societies (SACS) to change existing treatment regimens as an interim measure to deal with the countrywide stock-out. This request did not take into consideration existing treatment protocols.
- If there is an anticipated shortage at ART centres, various proactive steps were undertaken to ensure uninterrupted supply, through immediate relocation from nearby ART centres or from other States in consultation with the concerned SACS.
- District and State AIDS Control Societies have the authority to do emergency local procurement from their budgeted grant-in-aid provided by the Union government under the National AIDS Control Programme.
 - Certain SACS have procured small quantities of the drugs locally as an interim measure. But a quality test revealed that some drugs did not meet the quality standards prescribed by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules, raising concern about substandard drugs entering the supply chain.

Read more on [AIDS in India](#).

Nut Graf: *The HIV-positive community seeks streamlining of central procurement of HIV medicines and an uninterrupted supply of crucial medicines to safeguard the right to life of millions in the country who are at risk due to recent drug shortages across the country.*

C. GS 3 Related

Nothing here for today!!!

Nothing here for today!!!

Category: SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. Survey data on poverty and broad policy pointers

Syllabus: Issues relating to poverty

Prelims: About National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Mains: Significance of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), issues with the quality of NFHS data and the way forward

Context

This article talks about the quality of the survey data used to assess poverty in India.

Details

- Recently based on the multidimensional poverty measurement, it was found that the Poverty Ratio in Tamil Nadu reduced to 1.57% in 2020-21 from 4.89% in 2015-16.
- The above data is obtained based on the fourth and fifth rounds of the [National Family Health Survey](#) (NFHS).
- Experts have raised questions about the authenticity and quality of such NFHS data.

National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

- NFHS is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted on a representative sample of households throughout India.
- The first survey was conducted in **1992-93**.
- The data from the survey helps in highlighting key aspects such as fertility, infant and child mortality, family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition, anaemia, utilization and quality of health and family planning services.
- **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in Mumbai** is the nodal agency that is responsible for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey.

- **Aims:**
 - To provide crucial data on health and family welfare required for policy purposes.
 - To provide information on key emerging health and family welfare issues.

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) based on NFHS data

- NITI Aayog, which was provided with a large amount of sample survey data of NFHS 4, estimated the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and published the baseline report in 2021.
- MPI was estimated based on the theory that poverty is a result of continuous deprivations in various aspects like **attainments in health, education, and standard of living**.
- The NITI Aayog recognised 12 factors in the above three aspects and estimated the weighted average of deprivations in each of these 12 factors for all individuals surveyed in NFHS 4.
 - Individuals are regarded as **“multidimensionally poor”** if the total weighted deprivation score is found to be **over 0.33**.
- The share of the population with a deprivation score of over 0.33 to the total population is said to be the **Poverty Ratio** or **Head Count Ratio**.
- The **Intensity of Poverty** is another key metric that can be estimated based on the NFHS data.
 - The Intensity of Poverty is the weighted-average deprivation score of the multidimensionally poor.
 - **Example:** If the Intensity of Poverty in Tamil Nadu has reduced from 39.97% to 38.78%, it suggests that the amount of multiple deprivations of the poor has only reduced slightly in these five years and has to be the focus area for policymakers.
- The **MPI is a product of the Head Count Ratio and Intensity of Poverty**.
- The MPI for Tamil Nadu declined from 0.020 to 0.006. This rapid reduction in MPI is mainly because of a greater decline in Head Count Ratio as compared to Intensity of Poverty.
 - Experts say that any further reduction in MPI in Tamil Nadu must take place only after addressing all the dimensions of poverty and reducing its intensity.

Read more about - [Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\)](#)

Significance of MPI

- MPI is the most efficient method to identify the total share of the population who are regarded as deprived in most of the indicators.
- MPI methods help address deprivations in all the factors of health, education, and standard of living.
- MPI also indicates that the total share of the population who are identified as deprived individually in a few of the factors (the non-poor may also be deprived in a few of these indicators, but not as much to be classified as multidimensionally poor) is higher than the population identified as multidimensionally poor.

- This provides a new aspect to the public policy interventions, which says that poverty control measures should not only be multidimensional but also universal.
- Further, with the help of NFHS data, Head Count Ratio and Intensity of Poverty can be estimated for each district and classified based on gender, rural and urban, and other dimensions.

Quality of NFHS data

- Experts raise various concerns regarding the quality of survey data.
- Economists and statisticians have raised questions about National Sample Survey Organisation's (NSSO) sample surveys both with respect to sampling and non-sample errors.
 - NSSO has made efforts in recent years to improve its sampling design and reduce non-sampling errors.
- Similarly, NFHS data has also been criticised for its arbitrariness in reporting the age of the dead, differences in data quality between educated and uneducated respondents, etc. which are crucial indicators for the health and welfare of citizens.
- Experts have pointed out discrepancies in the metrics of pregnancy, the intensity of poverty and deprivation in terms of nutrition, maternal health and schooling.
- Further, the deprivation indicators with respect to drinking water and sanitation are also said to be skewed.

Way forward

- It is important to adopt a universal approach rather than a targeted approach to address poverty to reduce the Intensity of Poverty along with the Poverty Ratio or Head Count Ratio.
- Important interventions must also take into account the ground-level realities as the survey data provides only broad-level policy pointers.
- Efforts must be undertaken to improve the sample design, response quality and reduce sampling and non-sample errors in various key surveys of the country.

Nut graf: *Multidimensional poverty measurements and their components are extremely significant in understanding poverty as a whole and other key information that are important for interventions. However, the authenticity of such measurements depends on the quality of NFHS data, therefore efforts must be made to improve the quality of such surveys.*

F. Prelims Facts

1. Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021

Syllabus: *Biodiversity and Environment- Conservation*

Prelims: Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Context: Recently, the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 was passed in Lok Sabha.

What is the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill 2021?

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change introduced the bill in the 2021 winter session.
- The bill seeks to amend the [Wild Life Protection Act, 1972](#) (WLPA) to increase the species protected under the law and implement the [CITES](#).
- The Bill inserts a new schedule to WLPA for specimens listed in the Appendices under CITES (scheduled specimens).
- The Bill empowers the Union government to regulate or prohibit the import, possession or trade of invasive alien species.
- The Bill empowers the Union government to notify a conservation reserve for protecting flora and fauna, and their habitat. Earlier, under the Act, only state governments could declare areas adjacent to national parks and sanctuaries as conservation reserves.
- As per the provisions of the Bill, the Union government can designate a management authority to grant export or import permits for the trade of specimens and the Scientific Authority to advise on aspects related to the impact on the survival of the specimens being traded.
- The Bill increases the fines for violating the provisions of the Act.

Type of Violation	1972 Act	2021 Bill
General violation	Up to Rs 25,000	Up to Rs 1,00,000
Specially protected animals	At least Rs 10,000	At least Rs 25,000

G. Tidbits

Nothing here for today!!!

H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements with respect to Vice-President of India: (Level- Easy)

1. To be eligible for election as Vice-President, he/she should be qualified for election as a member of the lower house.
2. The oath of office to the Vice-President is administered by the Chief Justice of India and in his absence, the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court available.

3. If the office falls vacant by resignation, removal, death or otherwise, then an election to fill the vacancy should be held within six months from the date of the occurrence of such a vacancy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. None

Answer: d

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect,** An Indian citizen who has completed 35 years of age is qualified to become the Vice-President of India given he is also qualified to be a Rajya Sabha/Upper House member.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect,** The President of India administers the oath to the vice president.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect,** there is no provision of a 'six-month' time frame to fill the vacancy to the post of Vice president as in the case for the President of India in the Indian Constitution.

Read more on the [Vice President of India](#).

Q2. With respect to Elephants, which of the following statements is/are correct? (Level-Medium)

1. Asian Elephant is listed as Endangered on the IUCN red list.
2. Only some male Asian elephants have tusks, while both male and female African elephants grow tusks.
3. There are two species of African elephants—the savanna (or bush) elephant and the forest elephant. Forest elephants are larger than Savanna elephants, and their tusks curve outwards.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct,** The [Asian elephant](#) has been listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List since 1986 as the elephant population has declined over the last 60-55 years.
- **Statement 2 is correct,** Only some male Asian elephants have tusks, while both male and female African elephants grow tusks.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect,** The African elephant was recently split into two different species, the African forest elephant and the African savanna elephant, by IUCN.
 - Critically Endangered African savanna elephants are larger and their tusks curve outward. The tusks of the Endangered African forest elephant are straighter, pointing downward, and they have more rounded ears.

-



ELEPHANT SPECIES

Asian Elephant

African Savannah Elephant

African Forest Elephant



There are three recognized elephant species: Asian, African savannah and African forest. Adult female elephants are called cows; adult males, bulls; and sub adults, calves.

SPECIES		
Asian elephant	African savannah elephant (also called African bush elephant)	African forest elephant
SCIENTIFIC NAME		
<i>Elephas maximus</i>	<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>
SUBSPECIES		
Indian, Sri Lankan and Sumatran		
CONSERVATION STATUS		
Endangered	Vulnerable	Endangered
HOME RANGES		
Southeastern Asia, including India, Thailand, Nepal, Sumatra, Cambodia, Myanmar, Bhutan, Borneo, Vietnam, Bangladesh and China. They inhabit grasslands, different types of forests and scrublands. They can live at altitudes ranging from sea level to more than 9,800 feet.	Sub-Saharan Africa, including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola and Ethiopia. The elephants move among a variety of habitats, including grasslands, forests, woodlands, wetlands and agricultural land from sea level to mountain slopes. In Mali and Namibia, there are small populations of elephants who also live in desert areas.	West Africa and the Congo River Basin, including Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon and Democratic Republic of the Congo. They live in evergreen moist deciduous forests and rainforests.
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS		
Largest living land mammal in Asia. Their forehead has two hemispherical bulges; their back is convex; and they have five toes on each forefoot and four on each hind foot. Their trunk has one finger-like tip.	Largest living land mammal in Africa. Their backs are concave and their trunks have two finger-like tips. Their skin appears loose with parallel folds, which create maximum surface area for heat disbursement. The savannah elephant has large ears that are pointed and triangular shaped whose shape resembles the African continent.	Smallest of the three living elephant species. Their ears are rounder and tusks straighter than the savannah elephant's.
AVERAGE WEIGHT		
8,000 pounds	8,000 pounds	4,000–8,000 pounds

Image Credit: Elephant Aid International

Q3. The United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 39 (1948) is concerned with (Level-Medium)

- a. Admission of new Members to the UN
- b. Israel-Palestine political solution
- c. Resolution of the Kashmir conflict
- d. The situation concerning Iraq

Answer: c

Explanation: [United Nations Security Council](#) Resolution 39, adopted on January 20, 1948, offered to assist in the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir Conflict by setting up a commission of three members.

Q4. Consider the following Pairs: (Level-Difficult)

Waterfalls	State
1. Kunchikal Falls	Karnataka
2. Barehipani Falls	Odisha
3. Nohkalikai Falls	Meghalaya
4. Vajrai Falls	Maharashtra
5. Wei Sawdong Falls	Mizoram

Which of the above is/are correctly matched?

- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 3, 4 and 5 only
- c. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **Pair one is correctly matched**, Kunchikal Falls is formed by Varahi River in Shimoga district of Karnataka. It is India's highest waterfall with a height of 1493 feet.
- **Pair two is correctly matched**, Barehipani Falls is a two-tiered waterfall located in Simlipal National Park, Odisha. The waterfall is situated on the Budhabalanga river flowing over the Meghasani mountain of the Eastern Ghats.

- **Pair three is correctly matched,** Nohkalikai Falls is the tallest plunge waterfall in India with a height of 340 meters. It is located in Meghalaya. Nohkalikai Falls is located on the edge of the Cherrapunji Plateau and is always fed by the rain.
- **Pair four is correctly matched,** The Vajrai Waterfall is located on the Urmodi river in Maharashtra. It is the second highest plunge waterfall in India with a drop of 335 meters.
- **Pair five is incorrectly matched,** Wei Sawdong Falls is a three-tiered waterfall located in Meghalaya.

Read more on the [highest waterfalls in India.](#)

Q5. With reference to Convertible Bonds, consider the following statements: (Level-Medium) (CSE-Prelims-2022)

1. As there is an option to exchange the bond for equity, Convertible Bonds pay a lower rate of interest.
2. The option to convert to equity affords the bondholder a degree of indexation to rising consumer prices.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct,** Convertible bonds offer a lower coupon rate in exchange for the value of the option to convert the bond into common stock.
- **Statement 2 is correct,** The option to convert to equity affords the bondholder a degree of indexation to rising consumer prices as equity prices can differ widely from the given interest and the difference in that can be used as a hedge for the inflation.

I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. [Discuss the various initiatives taken by the Indian government to counter the problem of HIV in India. Evaluate the performance of such initiatives. \(250 words; 15 marks\)\(GS II-Health\)](#)
2. [Discuss the merits and demerits of offering medical education in vernacular languages in India. \(250 words; 15 marks\)\(GS II-Governance\)](#)

