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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

01.05.2021

FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
 - To have a bank of mains questions.
 - And interesting to read.
 - Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE
BUSINESS LINE - BL
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI

INDEX

Editorial

1. Judges open to being woke and giving a judgement with a call of heart doing the rounds.....04

GS 2

❖ **Social Justice**

1. Central government's response to the rise in demand for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme amidst the pandemic.....05

❖ **International Relations**

2. Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan cross border tensions.....05



ESSAY PAPER

EDITORIAL

Q- Why is the news of a judges open to being woke and giving a judgement with a call of heart doing the rounds? Explain?

INTRODUCTION = In a rare case, a judge has declared himself unable to issue a judgment without empathising with the experience of the petitioners. Justice N Anand Venkatesh of the Madras HC has been hearing the plea of two women for protection from their respective families. Admitting that he knew little about same-sex relationships, he has decided to learn more to “pave the way for my evolution”, so that the judgment could come from “the heart”.

When was the last time an authority figure decided to listen and learn, instead of preaching their often ill-founded assumptions, especially on questions that challenged the heteronormative status quo?

1. As recently as February, the Centre had cited “societal morality” before the Delhi HC, while seeking dismissal of a clutch of petitions praying for recognition of same-sex marriage.
2. Take the Transgender Persons’ (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which dilutes the very thing it seeks to protect. Apparently, it’s not enough that transgender persons self-identify as such; they must have a certificate from the district magistrate to prove it.
3. Remember, our higher courts do not represent the diversity of our society in terms of gender or caste; there is only one woman chief justice across 25 high courts, and very few SC, ST or OBC judges, though these groups make up most of the population.

These have real repercussions for justice delivery – in the way testimonies are heard and judgments made. Our perspectives are expanded by encountering the reality of others – we can then see the structures of injustice we were once blind to. Waking up is a learning process for everyone, especially those with no direct experience of that social unfairness.



In the constitutional frame, it is clear that two consenting adults have the right to live together free from social or familial harassment. It is against this discouraging background of top-down actions and empty gestures that Justice Venkatesh accepted his limitations and expressed a desire to outgrow them. Other judges and lawmakers should pay attention. Because his words are a gentle reminder that everyone, even the powers that be, can and must listen and learn, and evolve.

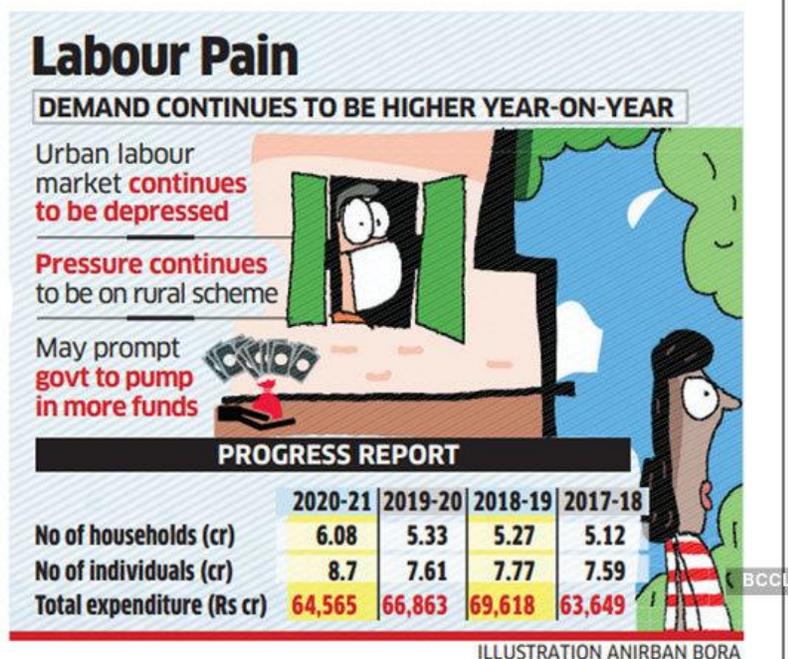
GS 2

❖ Social Justice

Q- Discuss central government's response to the rise in demand for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme amidst the pandemic?

BACKGROUND = The demand for MGNREGA work so far in the month of April has increased to 2.57 crore households, 92% higher than a year ago, and a record high for April since 2013, as per State Bank of India (SBI) Research. Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act 2005, is an Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee the 'right to work'.

The rise indicates the extent of reverse migration from the lockdown States to their native States -



The government had allocated ₹73,000 crore in this year's Budget for the MGNREGA, nearly 34.5% lower than last year's revised estimates of ₹1.11 lakh crore, on the assumption that the economic recovery would alleviate the need for such spending.

The original budgeted spending for the scheme for 2020-21 was around ₹60,000 crore but was enhanced over the year as the national lockdown and large-scale reverse migration from urban employment centres to the hinterland triggered greater demand under the scheme.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said in Parliament that the government would allocate more funds for the rural jobs scheme for 2021-22 if needed, over and above the ₹73,000 crore outlay proposed in the Budget.

❖ International Relations

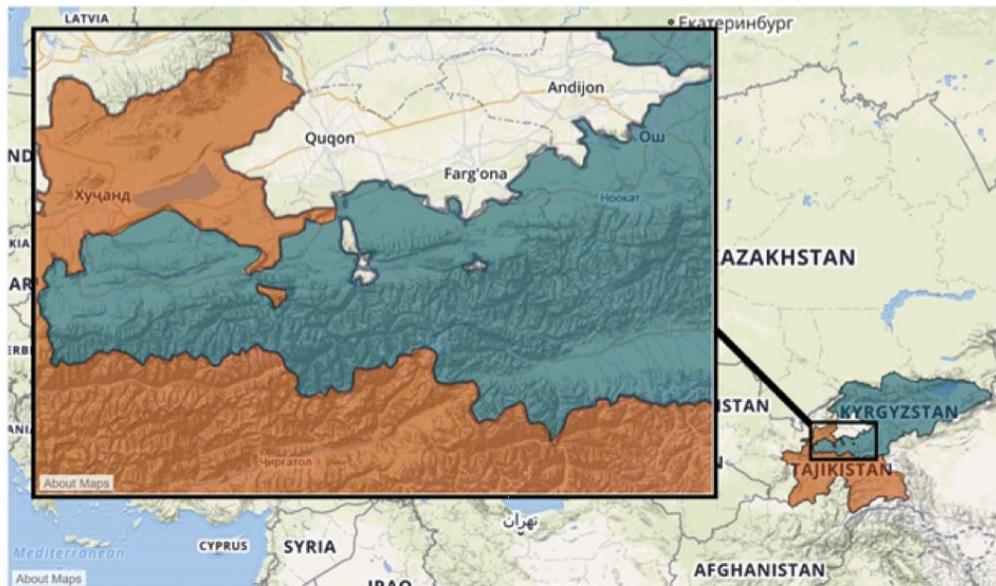
Q- Explain the Kyrgyzstan – Tajikistan cross border tensions and why is it in recent news?

BACKGROUND = A ceasefire on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan following a day of intense fighting between the two ex-Soviet Central Asian neighbours that killed 39 people and wounded more than 175. Contention in the borderland has been ongoing for decades, mainly over the use of land and water resources, as local livelihoods rely on agriculture and livestock. Throughout the last century, the border communities have occasionally managed to establish a delicate balance, preventing

disagreements from escalating into open conflict. Some historical studies have found that following the separation of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan from the Soviet Union in 1991, patriotic discourse and an emphasis on ethnicity exacerbated existing disputes, as control over scarce arable land became a symbol of national sovereignty. Both states claimed rights to the border areas based on contradictory interpretations of historical evidence, halting border demarcation work and the development of infrastructure in the region, further complicating the situation and fueling tensions.

In the volatile region of the Ferghana valley, where the borders of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan converge (*see map below*), violent confrontations between locals and state forces have been a longstanding concern. Disputes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are particularly frequent as almost half of the 971-kilometer-long border territory remains contested, creating challenges for local populations hoping to address infrastructural and economic issues in the region. Disagreements over the connection of Tajikistan's fertile Vorukh exclave to the mainland only adds to the disorder.

The Kyrgyz - Tajik border



More than 7,000 Kyrgyz residents have been evacuated from the area engulfed by the fighting as troops from the two countries exchanged gunfire around a water supply facility near the village of Kok-Tash, located in western Kyrgyzstan on the border with Tajikistan.

Both nations have claimed the area around the water supply facility in Kok-Tash, a dispute dating back decades to when they were both part of the Soviet Union.

A large part of the Tajik-Kyrgyz border remains unmarked, fuelling fierce disputes over water, land and pastures.

The latest conflict erupted when Tajik officials attempted to mount surveillance cameras to monitor the water supply facility amid the tensions over water distribution, and Kyrgyz residents opposed the move. Both sides began hurling stones at each other and troops quickly entered the fray.



With regard to the state handling the spread of information or calls for help through social media from citizens affected by COVID-19, which of the following statements is/are INCORRECT?

1. To punish citizens who take to social media to seek help for oxygen cylinders, COVID-19 drugs, beds and hospitals amid a rampaging second wave would attract contempt of court action.
2. Clampdown of information is contrary to basic precepts
 - a. 1 only
 - b. 2 only
 - c. Both
 - d. None



The term 'Intramural spread' of Covid-19 seen in recent news means which of the following closely?

- a. Situated or done within the walls of a building.
- b. Spread constituting both Air and droplet borne
- c. Fast spread within the human body
- d. Spread within clusters of human beings

Answer – A

NOTE: With the risk of intra-mural spread being high – Government stresses upon the importance of wearing a mask at home if there is a person developing a respiratory infection so that it does not spread within those living together.

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