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DAILY NEWS DIARY

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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.

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ESSAY PAPER

Editorial

Q- Comment on the recent Maoist attack in Gadchiroli giving reasons for the persistent Maoism even in the 21st Century?

INTRODUCTION = With the deaths of 26 rebels in a police operation in Gadchiroli, the proscribed Communist Party of India (Maoist) has faced yet another setback in its “protracted armed struggle” against the Indian state. Gadchiroli, a largely forested and tribal-dominated district, is among Maharashtra’s poorest and the Maoists have sought to expand their presence extending from neighbouring Chhattisgarh.



There have been major encounters in the district –

1. With recent ones involving the deaths of 40 Maoists in two separate operations in April 2018
2. And a landmine blast claiming 15 police personnel and a driver in May 2019.

Gadchiroli remains one of the few districts “severely affected” by left-wing extremism. Despite suffering significant losses to its leadership either in military operations or due to physical infirmities and a shrinking of the areas of influence, the Maoists have refused to withdraw from their pursuit of armed struggle.

In cycles of violence, they have managed their own strikes against security forces, but such attacks have not provided them any heft in expanding their presence or increasing their support base.

The conflict has fallen into a pattern — violence begets violence as insurgents and the security forces continually lose combatants, but equally disturbing, this also affects the poor tribal people whose lives are caught in a prolonged crossfire.

Causes of Continuity -

1. The Maoists' inability, not just to expand but also to entrench themselves, is to some extent to the credit of the Indian state apparatus, both its security establishment and its work, through development schemes, in weaning away support for the Maoists among the poorest and marginalised sections, especially in remote areas.
2. At the same time, this is also a reflection of the incongruence of the Indian Maoists' programme which bases itself on replicating the Chinese Revolution of the previous century, and its quixotic pursuit of armed struggle as the means to achieve its aims. Neither are the conditions in India remotely closer to that of China in the 1920s, nor are the peasantry — whose support the Maoists deem as crucial to their project — enamoured of the Maoist programme or its reliance on guerilla struggle.
3. The Maoists' refusal to acknowledge the diverse industrial base in the country, their rejection of liberal democratic instruments in the Indian state and the faith of the poor in the robust electoral system have blinded them to pursue a futile cause.

Way Forward

Yet, despite the futility, the Maoists retain the capability to strike in isolated skirmishes. Maharashtra must not rest on its success in militarily diminishing the Maoist threat in Gadchiroli. It must act continually in winning over the support of tribals in the region and retaining their faith in the liberal democratic institutions of the state.

GS 2

❖ Polity

Q- Explain how is extending the tenures of CBI and ED directors a clear case of making Parliament redundant and subverting democracy?

BACKGROUND = President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated two ordinances that would allow the Union Government to extend the **tenures of the directors of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) from two years to up to five years.**

- The chiefs of the Central agencies currently have a fixed two-year tenure, but can now be given three annual extensions.
- While the change in tenure of the post of CBI Director was effected by amending the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 was amended with respect to the ED Director's post.

Is the move malafide?

- The move has riled the Opposition as the ordinances were brought in barely two weeks before the winter session of Parliament from November 29.
- While the move will not immediately benefit CBI Director Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, appointed in May, it may benefit Mr. Mishra. Appointed in November 2018, the ED chief was to retire in November 2020. However, when the Government gave him a one-year extension retrospectively on November 13, 2020, the order was challenged in the Supreme Court.

On September 8, a Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and B.R. Gavai directed the Government not to give Mr. Mishra any more extension, while observing that any extension of tenure during superannuation has to be for a short period and reasons must be recorded for granting such extensions.

The court also noted that such extensions could be given “only in rare and exceptional circumstances” to facilitate an ongoing investigation. However, after the promulgation of the ordinance, the Centre can now give one-year extensions thrice after the completion of the initial two years.

- Opposition says Mr. Modi’s Govt uses ED-CBI as henchmen to usurp power & destabilise elected Govts.
- Raids by ED, CBI on the Opposition leaders has become a norm. Now, these henchmen are being empowered & rewarded with 5 yrs tenure, so that malicious prosecution is used to silence dissenting voices.

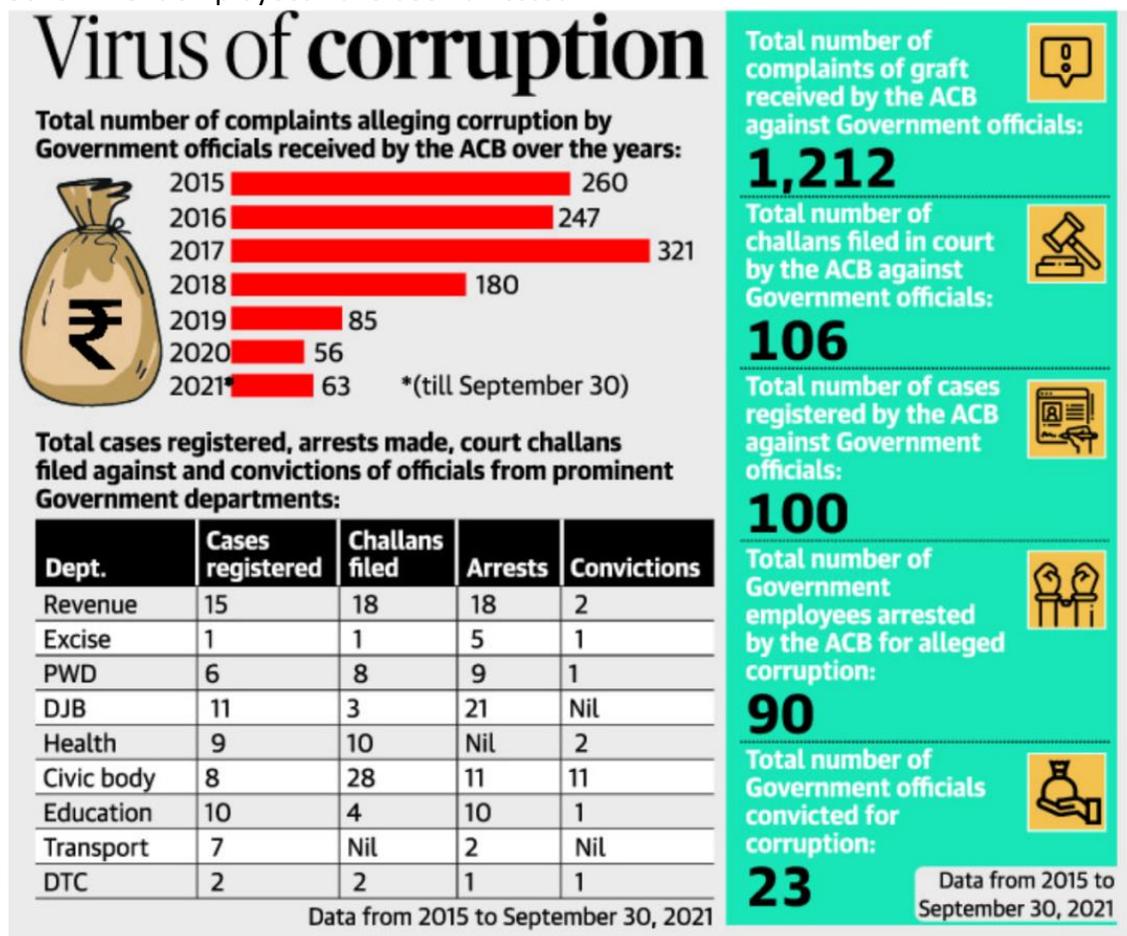
“It is a clear case of making Parliament redundant and subverting democracy.”

❖ Indian Society**Q- Pandemic curve plummets, corruption graph shoots up. Elaborate?**

BACKGROUND = After witnessing a brief slowdown following the advent of the pandemic last year, alleged corruption in the city’s Government departments appears to be back with a vengeance.

- The number of complaints alleging graft against officials posted in various Government departments received by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) till the end of September surpassed the total number of complaints filed with the ACB throughout 2020 by over 12.
- From 180 in 2018, the total number of complaints alleging corruption received by the ACB fell to 85 in 2019 and 56 in 2020.
- However, till the end of September 2021, as many as 63 complaints have been recorded, registering an increase of 12.5%.
- On the other hand, the number of cases registered on the basis of these complaints as well as the number of Government officials arrested for alleged graft was found trailing by mere single digits compared to 2020. But, no Government official was convicted either in 2020 or till September this year.

- The ACB had registered 12 cases of alleged graft and arrested 11 Government officials in 2020. Till the end of September 2021, a total of 11 cases have been registered and 10 Government employees have been arrested.



- From 2015 to September 30 this year, prominent departments such as revenue saw 15, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) 11, education 10, health 9 and the municipal corporations of Delhi 8 cases registered against their employees by the anti-graft body.
- Of the total number of 1,212 complaints alleging graft received by it from 2015 till September this year, 100 or 8.25% were converted into cases. Court challans — a pre-requisite for a trial — were filed in 106 or 8.75% cases. Arrests were made in 90 or 7.43% of the cases and convictions secured in 23 or 1.9%.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau

The ACB, created in 1975, was envisioned as a police station with jurisdiction 'all over the National Capital Territory of Delhi' and mandated with the investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act (1988).

In addition to the power to conduct inquiries against public servants of the Delhi Government and departments under the L-G, the ACB, till mid-2015, had the power to probe graft complaints

against officials posted in departments such as the Delhi Police and the DDA, if the instances of alleged graft unfolded within the borders of the Capital.

Powers curtailed

Between 2014 and 2015, back-to-back directives were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) effectively curtailing its ambit and power to investigate graft complaints against officials employed by the Central Government.

Sources said the seemingly 'low' complaint-to-case conversion ratio was due to this 'change in the remit' of the anti-graft body.

GS 3

❖ Biodiversity

Q- What is known as 'Kaiser-i-Hind' in India and why is it in recent news?

BACKGROUND = An elusive swallowtail butterfly carrying 'India' in its name and found in next-door China will become the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.

The State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Pema Khandu approved the large, brightly coloured Kaiser-i-Hind as the State butterfly. The Cabinet meeting was for the first time held outside State capital Itanagar at an unusual location — Pakke Tiger Reserve.



Winged beauty: *Teinopalpus imperialis*. Special ArrangementSpecial Arrangement

The Cabinet also adopted the Pakke Tiger Reserve 2047 declaration on climate change-resilient and responsive Arunachal Pradesh aimed at lowering emissions and sustainable development. Kaiser-i-Hind (*Teinopalpus imperialis*) literally means Emperor of India. This butterfly with a 90-120 mm wingspan is found in six States along the eastern Himalayas at elevations from 6,000-10,000 feet in well-wooded terrain.

The butterfly also flutters in Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and southern China.

The State Wildlife Board had in January 2020 accepted the proposal from Koj Rinya, the divisional forest officer of Hapoli Forest Division in the Lower Subansiri district to accept the Kaiser-i-Hind as the State butterfly. The proposal was made with a view to boosting butterfly tourism and saving the species from extinction in the State.

Protected areas under the Hapoli Forest Division are popular with butterfly enthusiasts.

Although the Kaiser-i-Hind is protected under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it is hunted for supply to butterfly collectors.

Habitat conservation

According to Assam-based butterfly expert Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi, the species is confined to very few pockets of Arunachal Pradesh and could become extinct if not conserved.

“The State butterfly tag can translate into its habitat conservation,”.

- The first dead specimen of Kaiser-i-Hind was recorded in Sikkim by Usha Lachugpa. It was captured live on camera by a few participants during a butterfly watching meet in Arunachal Pradesh’s Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in 2014.





Q- The Kalpathy Chariot Festival recently in news for having been conducted with Covid-19 vigilance is celebrated in which of the following state?

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Kerala
- c. Odisha
- d. Maharashtra



Q- Who among the following Mughal emperors issued a farman granting the East India Company the right to trade duty free?

- a. Jahangir
- b. Aurangzeb
- c. Shah Jahan
- d. Farrukhsiyar

Answer: b

Mughal emperor Aurangzeb issued a farman granting the East India Company the right to trade duty free. He granted the Company the right to trade duty free but officials of the Company, who were carrying on private trade on the side, were expected to pay duty. Since they refused to pay, it caused an enormous loss of revenue for Bengal. Hence, option (b) is correct.

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