

# SosinClasses

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## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

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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.

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## GS 2

### ❖ SOCIAL ISSUES

**Q) Discuss the difference between Talaq-e-Hasan and instant triple talaq and its impact on women.**

**Context:**

A public interest litigation (PIL) seeking to invalidate Talaq-e-Hasan, the prescribed Islamic way of divorce, has been filed in the Supreme Court.

**PIL:**

- The petition seeks to make the prescribed Islamic way of divorce Talaq-e-Hasan unconstitutional as it is violative of Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25 of the Constitution.
- The petitioner has been unilaterally divorced through the Talaq-e-Hasan mode by her husband.
- She also prayed that Section 2 of the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 that permits Muslims to practise unilateral divorce be declared void.

**Basis of the PIL:**

The hearing comes almost five years after the five judge Bench headed by then CJI J.S. Khehar invalidated instant triple talaq in their verdict in the Shayara Bano vs the Union of India Case. The invalidation of instant triple talaq where the court held, "What is bad in theology is bad in law as well", led to the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019.

**Triple Talaq:**

- In instant triple talaq a man pronounces multiple divorce in one go.
- It has no scope for reconciliation between the feuding couple, and often ends a marriage instantly.
- It is, as the judges held, not mentioned anywhere in the Quran which prescribes a code of divorce largely through Surah Baqarah, verses 226 to 237 and the opening six verses of Surah Talaq.
- Incidentally, triple talaq in this manner has been banned in many Muslim countries, including Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, Malaysia etc.

**How is Talaq-e-Hasan different from instant triple talaq?**

1. Unlike instant triple talaq, Talaq-e-Hasan is pronounced with a gap of at least one month or one menstrual cycle.
2. Only a single revocable divorce takes place through the first pronouncement of Talaq-e-Hasan.
3. The husband and wife are supposed to live together after this pronouncement and have the option of rapprochement.
4. If the couple is not able to mend fences in the intervening period and the husband does not annul divorce through word or by establishing intimacy, the talaq stays valid.
5. At the end of this month, the husband has to pronounce divorce for the second time.

6. Likewise for the third time. After the second pronouncement too, the divorce is revocable, and the couple may resume their conjugal relationship anytime they so desire.
7. If, however, the third pronouncement is made after at least one menstrual cycle, then irrevocable divorce takes place.

### **Why such hue over menstrual cycle?**

Significantly, no divorce can be administered when the woman is undergoing her menstrual cycle. Even in the case of pregnancy, no divorce takes place. And if such a pronouncement is made, it remains in abeyance till the end of pregnancy.

### **Are there other options of divorce apart from the Talaq-e-Hasan?**

- The third option of divorce besides Talaq-e-Hasan and the now repudiated instant triple talaq, is Talaq-e-Ahsan.
- Under this form, a single pronouncement is made.
- Following the pronouncement, a woman has to go through iddat or a waiting period of three months.
- During this period the divorce can be cancelled.
- However, failure to annul divorce during this period results in it being finalised after which a woman is independent, and free to marry another man or stay single, as she may choose.
- Both Talaq-e-Hasan and Talaq-e-Ahsan enjoy legal validity in almost all Muslim countries.
- Interestingly, women too have a right to end an unsuccessful marriage through Khula.

### **Legal status of Khula in India:**

- ✓ In April 2021, the Kerala High Court held this form of divorce valid.
- ✓ The court overruled a 49-year-old verdict in K.C. Moyin vs Nafeesa and Others (1972) that barred Muslim women from dissolving their marriage through non-judicial modes.
- ✓ There is some debate among religious scholars on the ways of Khula.
- ✓ Some hold that the man's consent is necessary in Khula while most say that he enjoys no such privilege.

**Source: The Hindu**

## **GS 3**

### **❖ SECURITY ISSUES**

**Q) Explain the role of BSF in securing India's frontiers and its impact on State police jurisdiction.**

**Context:**

A blueprint that defines the extended jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) and its new logistical requirements in frontier States has been prepared and is soon expected to be submitted to the Union Home Ministry.

While in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, the BSF jurisdiction, from the border towards the hinterland, was enhanced from the earlier 15 km to 50 km. In Gujarat the same limit has been reduced from 80 km to 50 km, while in Rajasthan the limit has been kept unchanged at 50 km.

BSF currently stands as the world's largest border guarding force. It has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories.

**Border Security Force (BSF):**

- The BSF is India's border guarding organization on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It was raised in the wake of the 1965 War on 1 December 1965 for ensuring the security of the borders of India and for matters connected therewith.
- The BSF has its own cadre of officers but its head, designated as a Director-General (DG), since its raising has been an officer from the Indian Police Service (IPS).

**New Modifications:**

The MHA has exercised the powers under the Border Security Force Act of 1968. It has thus outlined the area of BSF's jurisdiction. Powers exercised by BSF in its jurisdiction

BSF's jurisdiction has been extended only in respect of the powers it enjoys under:

1. Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)
2. Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and
3. Passport Act, 1967

**Arrest and search:**

BSF currently has powers to arrest and search under these laws. It also has powers to arrest, search and seize under the NDPS Act, Arms Act, Customs Act and certain other laws.

**Sanctions behind such powers:**

- ✓ Scarcely populated borders: At that time, border areas were sparsely populated and there were hardly any police stations for miles.
- ✓ Trans-border crimes: To prevent trans-border crimes, it was felt necessary that BSF is given powers to arrest.
- ✓ Manpower crunch: While police stations have now come up near the border, they continue to be short-staffed.

**Various issues at Borders:**

- i. Encroachment
- ii. Illegal incursion
- iii. Drug and cattle smuggling

**Impact on State Police jurisdiction:**

Such moves are aimed to complement the efforts of the local police. Thus, it is an enabling provision. It's not that the local police can't act within the jurisdiction of the BSF. The state police have better knowledge of the ground. Hence BSF and local Police can act in cooperation.

**Criticism of the move:**

- ✓ At a basic level, the states can argue that law and order is a state subject and enhancing BSF's jurisdiction infringes upon powers of the state government.
- ✓ In 2012, then Gujarat CM and the present PM had opposed a central government moves to expand BSF's jurisdiction.

**Source:** *The Hindu*

**❖ ECONOMY****Q) Critically analyse the communication gap between Monetary Policy Committee and RBI.****Context:**

Communication is a critical element of monetary policy. Yet there seems to be a gap between what the MPC says and what the RBI does.

**About the inflation-targeting regime and MPC:**

By law, the Monetary Policy Committee is the highest monetary policy-making body in the land, tasked with deciding monetary policy changes at regular intervals. The MPC consist of three external members, three RBI representatives, and is chaired by the governor.

Under the inflation targeting regime, the most important role in communication belongs to the MPC. Communication with public: Monetary policy changes are communicated through formal statements, with the discussions underlying these decisions also being published, so that the public can understand why the MPC decided the way that they did.

Following are the ways which indicate the lack of communication between the RBI and the MPC, with several implications for the credibility of the MPC.

**1. Separate statements:**

- During the first few years of the inflation-targeting regime from 2016 to 2018, the process of communication worked quite well.
- On the days of policy announcements, the governor and his deputies would participate in a press conference.
- But otherwise, the focus was squarely on the MPC, especially its statement, from which the public used to glean important information.
- From 2019 onwards, however, things began to change.
- Governor's separate statement: The RBI began to release a separate governor's statement on the day of the monetary policy meeting, presenting an inflation outlook and even explaining the decision taken by the MPC.
- MPC statement: It has overlapped with the MPC statement; at times, it has seemed somewhat different.
- For example, following the June 8 Monetary Policy Review the MPC highlighted inflation concerns, and voted in favour of raising the policy repo rate.
- On the same day, a governor's statement mentioned that the central bank will also remain focussed on the orderly completion of the government's borrowing programme.

- Confusion: The issuance of two such different statements can lead to confusion, especially as lowering inflation and lowering government bond yields are contradictory policy objectives.
2. Change in the Monetary Policy Corridor width during pandemic:
    - Deciding the repo rate: The most important task of the MPC, enshrined in the RBI Act (Amended), 2016 that introduced IT, is to decide the repo rate, since this has long been the lynchpin of India's monetary policy framework.
    - Ever since the early 2000s, policy had aimed to keep overnight money market rates in a corridor, with the lower bound established by the reverse repo rate and the upper bound by the repo rate.
    - Since the width of this corridor was fixed, once the repo rate was decided, the reverse repo rate was automatically determined, and market overnight rates adjusted accordingly.
    - During the Covid-19 pandemic, the RBI constantly adjusted the reverse repo rate even as the MPC kept the repo rate unchanged.
    - As a result, the fixed width of the corridor was lost, and the MPC lost any role in determining interest rates.
  3. Introduction of policy instruments outside the remit of MPC:
    - During pandemic, the RBI introduced a number of new policy instruments, again outside the remit of the MPC.
    - GSAP: It brought in the GSAP programme through which it pre-committed to buying a certain amount of dated government bonds in order to control their yields.
    - Variable reverse repo auctions: It then introduced variable reverse repo auctions, and more recently, replaced the reverse repo rate with the long-dormant standing deposit facility rate.
    - The rationale for which was not explained in the MPC statement.
    - All unconventional monetary policy announcements were kept outside the MPC statement.
    - This raised the questions about the role of the committee in deciding monetary policy actions at a crucial time like the pandemic.
  4. Intervention in the foreign exchange market
    - The RBI has been intervening in the foreign exchange market to manage the rupee.
    - Forex interventions by definition influence the domestic monetary base and inflation.
    - Yet the MPC in its monetary policy statements does not discuss either the exchange rate dynamics or the forex interventions.
    - Just as it does not discuss the RBI's interventions in the bond market to lower the yields.

**Way forward:**

In its latest two statements, the MPC indicated that policy would now be focusing on bringing India's inflation rate under control.

Clear policy framework: If the RBI is going to be successful in this endeavour, the first step must be to close the communication gap, by reintroducing a simple and clear policy framework and restoring the central role of the MPC.

**Conclusion:**

The net result of all these actions is a potential loss of both clarity and credibility. The communication gap will need to be closed in order for the RBI to become successful in bringing inflation back to its 4 per cent target level.

**Source: Indian Express**

**SNIPPETS****GS 2****❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****Q) Explain the significance of the Strait of Hormuz.****Context:**

A US Navy warship fired a warning flare to wave off an Iranian speedboat coming straight at it during a tense encounter in the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway in the Middle East marks the most sensitive transportation choke point for global oil supplies.

**Strait of Hormuz:**

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow channel, approximately 30 miles wide at the narrowest point, between the Omani Musandam Peninsula and Iran.
- It connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman.
- The Strait is deep and relatively free of maritime hazards.
- Its depth is greatest near the Musandam Peninsula and tapers as you move north toward the Iranian shore.
- Oil tankers carrying crude from ports on the Persian Gulf must pass through the strait.
- Around 21 million barrels of oil a day flowed through it in 2018, equivalent to roughly a third of global seaborne oil trade and about 21% of global petroleum liquids consumption.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Q) Which of the following statements with respect to National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman Workers (NIPUN) is incorrect?**

- a) NIPUN aims to train construction workers.
- b) It is an initiative of the National Skill Development Corporation.
- c) NSDC is responsible for the overall execution of the program.
- d) NIPUN is creating a future labour force for the construction industry

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) Which of the following statements with regard to the Central Vista is incorrect?**

1. Currently, Centra Vista houses Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block.
2. Edwin Lutyens was solely responsible for the construction of Central Vista.

**Options:**

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Currently, the Central Vista of New Delhi houses Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Block, India Gate, National Archives among others.
- In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar (a grand assembly) to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.
- Delhi Durbar was hosted to mark the coronation of King George V.
- The task of constructing a new city was given to Edwin Lutyens, known for his strong adherence to European Classicism and Herbert Baker, a prominent architect in South Africa.
- Herbert Baker is also the architect of the Union buildings at Pretoria, South Africa.
- Parliament House building was designed by both Lutyens and Baker.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan was designed by Edwin Lutyens.
- The Secretariat which includes both north and south block was designed by Herbert Baker.

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