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**INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION**

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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**25.06.2022**

**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

### ❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### **Q) Analyse the debates upholding the right to abortion in United States.**

In a significant curtailment of women's rights, the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, a 1973 landmark decision giving women in America the right to have an abortion before the foetus is viable outside the womb — before the 24-28 week mark.

#### **Roe vs. Wade Case: Upholding the Right to Abortion**

- Roe, short for Jane Roe, is the pseudonym for a Texas woman who in 1970 sought to have an abortion when she was five months pregnant.
- Texas then had ban on abortions except to save a mother's life. The case then went to the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS).
- The 7-2 majority opinion of the SCOTUS written in 1973, paved the way for the recognition of abortion as a constitutional right in the US considering foetal viability.

#### **Right to Abortion Judgment: Key takeaways**

Based on the Roe vs Wade case, the framework of regulations that applied towards the right to abortion:

- Almost no limitations could be placed on that right.
- Only limitations to abortion rights that were aimed at protecting a woman's health were permitted; and in the third trimester.
- State governments had greater leeway to limit the right to abortion except for cases in which the life and health of the mother were endangered.

#### **Debate:**

1. The abortion debate is the ongoing controversy surrounding the moral, legal, and religious status of induced abortion.
2. The sides involved in the debate are the self-described "pro-choice" and "pro-life" movements.
3. Pro-choice emphasizes the woman's choice whether to terminate a pregnancy.
4. Pro-life position stresses the humanity of both the mother and foetus, arguing that a foetus is a human person deserving of legal protection.

#### **Why is the judgement overturned?**

- Foetuses feel the pain: If the foetus is beyond 20 weeks of gestation, gynaecologists assume that there will be pain caused to the foetus.
- Biblical gospel: The Bible does not draw a distinction between foetuses and babies. By the time a baby is conceived, he or she is recognized by God.
- Abortions cause psychological damage: Young adult women who undergo abortion may be at increased risk for subsequent depression.

- Abortions reduce the number of adoptable babies: Instead of having the option to abort, women should give their unwanted babies to people who cannot conceive. Single parenthood is also gaining popularity in the US.
- Cases of selective abortion: Such cases based on physical and genetic abnormalities (eugenic termination) is overt discrimination.
- Abortion as a form of contraception: It is immoral to kill an unborn child for convenience. Many women are using abortion as a contraceptive method.
- Morality put to question: If women become pregnant, they should accept the responsibility that comes with producing a child. People need to take responsibility for their actions and accept the consequences.
- Abortion promotes throwaway culture: The legalization of abortion sends a message that human life has little value and promotes the throwaway culture.
- Racial afflictions: Abortion disproportionately affects African American babies. In the US, black women are 3.3 times as likely as white women to have an abortion.

#### **Arguments in favour for Abortion Rights:**

- Upholding individual conscience and decision-making: The US Supreme Court has declared abortion to be a fundamental right guaranteed by the US Constitution.
- Reproductive choice empowers women: The choice over when and whether to have children is central to a woman's independence and ability to determine her future.
- Foetal viability occurs post-birth: Personhood begins after a foetus becomes "viable" (able to survive outside the womb) or after birth, not at conception. Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy, not a baby.
- No proof of foetal pain: Most neuroscientists believe that the cortex is necessary for pain perception. The cortex does not become functional until at least the 26th week of a foetus' development.
- Preventing illegal abortions: Access to legal, professionally-performed abortions reduces maternal injury and death caused by unsafe, illegal abortions.
- Mother's health: Modern abortion procedures are safe and do not cause lasting health issues such as cancer and infertility.
- Child's health: Abortion gives pregnant women the option to choose not to bring fetuses with profound abnormalities to full term.
- Prevents women's exclusion: Women who are denied abortions are more likely to become unemployed, to be on public welfare, to be below the poverty line, and to become victims of domestic violence.
- Reproductive choice protects women from financial disadvantage: Many women who choose abortion don't have the financial resources to support a child.
- Justified means of population control: Many defend abortion as a way to curb overpopulation. Malnutrition, starvation, poverty, lack of medical and educational services, pollution, underdevelopment, and conflict over resources are all consequences of overpopulation.

#### **Way forward:**

- ✓ A search for the middle path perhaps the right of a woman to choose what to do with the foetus has to be balanced with the right of the foetus to survive.

- ✓ It is only that a foetus does not have the ability to exercise an option while the person who carries it does.
- ✓ Rather than banning abortion, lawmakers must focus on counselling, employment security, social welfare, and financial support to persuade pregnant women to give birth to their children.
- ✓ We must achieve some degree of protection for the unborn by obtaining voluntary recognition of personal responsibility and respect for the personhood of the unborn.

**Source: The Hindu**

## ❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

### Q) How does NITI Aayog contribute for effective governance?

#### Context:

Parameswaran Iyer, a senior official who helmed the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, will be the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the NITI Aayog.

Iyer replaces Amitabh Kant, who completes his term in the office on June 30. Kant was appointed CEO of the National Institutions for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog on February 17, 2016, for two years. He got three extensions during his tenure.

#### NITI Aayog:

- The NITI Aayog serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Govt.
- It was established in 2015, by the NDA government, to replace the Planning Commission which followed a top-down model.
- It advises both the centre and states on social and economic issues.
- It is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body but the outcome of an executive resolution. It was not created by the act of parliament.

#### Composition of NITI Aayog:

1. The Prime Minister of India is the chairperson/chairman of the NITI Aayog.
2. The PM appoints one Vice-Chairperson, who holds the rank of a cabinet minister.
3. It includes the Chief Ministers of all the states and Union territories.
4. It has Regional Councils for looking after contingencies in regional areas. It is convened and chaired by the Prime Minister of India and includes concerned chief ministers and Lt. Governors.
5. The Prime Minister nominates Personalities with skilled knowledge, who are experts in particular domains as special invitees.
6. There are full-time members who hold the rank of ministers.
7. There is a maximum of two Part-time members who are invited from leading organisations, universities, and research centres.
8. The Prime Minister also appoints one Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who holds the rank of a Secretary.

**Aims, Agenda, and Objectives of NITI Aayog:**

The purpose with which NITI Aayog was formed in place of the Planning Commission was a far-sighted vision. It was important to boost the development of India in the emerging global scenario. The objectives are:

- i. To generate a platform for national development, sectors and strategies with the collaboration of states and centre.
- ii. To boost the factor of cooperative federalism between the centre and the states. For national development, it is necessary for both wings to work in synergy.
- iii. To develop such mechanisms which work at the ground root level for progressive growth. A nation develops when its regions and states develop.
- iv. To work on long term policies and strategies for long-term development. To set up a system for monitoring progress so that it can be used for analysing and improving methods.
- v. To provide a platform for resolving inter-departmental issues amicably.
- vi. To make it a platform where the programmes, strategies, and schemes can be monitored on a day to day basis, and it could be understood which sector needs more resources to develop.
- vii. To upgrade technological advancements in such a manner that focus can be made on iNITlatives and programmes.
- viii. To ensure India's level and ranking at the worldwide level and to make India an actively participating nation.
- ix. To progress from food security towards nutrition and standardised meals and focus on agricultural production.
- x. To make use of more technology to avoid misadventures and corruption in governance.
- xi. To make the working system more transparent and accountable.

**NITI Aayog – Seven Pillars of Effective Governance:**

NITI Aayog works on principles like Antyodaya (upliftment of poor), inclusion (to include all sections under one head), people participation, and so on. NITI Aayog is a body that follows seven pillars of governance. They are:

- ✓ To look after pro-people agenda so that the aspirations and desires of no one are compromised.
- ✓ To respond and work on the needs of citizens.
- ✓ Make citizens of the nation involve and participate in various streams.
- ✓ To empower women in all fields, be it social, technical, economic, or other.
- ✓ To include all sects and classes under one head. To give special attention to marginalised and minority groups.
- ✓ To provide equal opportunity for the young generation.
- ✓ To make the working of government more accountable and transparent. It will ensure less chance of corruption and malpractices.

**Source: The Hindu**

## SNIPPETS

### GS 3

#### ❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

#### **Q) What are the activities permitted and prohibited around Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZs)?**

##### **Context:**

Farmers in Kerala continue to protest across several high ranges of the state against the Supreme Court's recent order to establish 1-km Eco-Sensitive Zones around all protected areas, wildlife sanctuaries, and national parks.

##### **Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZs):**

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or Ecologically Fragile Areas (EFAs) are areas notified by the MoEFCC around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of “shock absorbers” to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.

##### **How are they demarcated?**

- ✓ The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does NOT mention the word “Eco-Sensitive Zones”.
- ✓ However, Section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall be carried out or shall not, subject to certain safeguards.
- ✓ Besides Rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 states that central government can prohibit or restrict the location of industries and carrying on certain operations or processes on the basis of certain considerations.
- ✓ The same criteria have been used by the government to declare No Development Zones (NDZs).

##### **Defining its boundaries:**

- i. An ESZ could go up to 10 kilometres around a protected area as provided in the Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002.
- ii. Moreover, in the case where sensitive corridors, connectivity and ecologically important patches, crucial for landscape linkage, are beyond 10 km width, these should be included in the ESZs.
- iii. Further, even in the context of a particular Protected Area, the distribution of an area of ESZ and the extent of regulation may not be uniform all around and it could be of variable width and extent.

**Activities Permitted and Prohibited:**

- Permitted: Ongoing agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, and adoption of green technology for all activities.
- Prohibited: Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), the establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.
- Under regulation: Felling of trees, the establishment of hotels and resorts, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.

**Source: Indian Express**

**GS 2****❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****Q) Assess the significance of the G-20.****Context:**

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a committee to coordinate with the delegates of G-20 countries scheduled to participate in a meeting to be held in the Union Territory (UT) next year.

The participation of the delegates from G-20 countries will be a major boost to the efforts of the Centre to project the situation in J&K as normal. This is especially after J&K's special constitutional position was ended in 2019.



**G-20:**

- Formed in 1999, the G20 is an international forum of the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies.
- Collectively, the G20 economies account for around 85 percent of the Gross World Product (GWP), 80 percent of world trade.
- To tackle the problems or address issues that plague the world, the heads of governments of the G20 nations periodically participate in summits.
- In addition to it, the group also hosts separate meetings of the finance ministers and foreign ministers.
- The G20 has no permanent staff of its own and its chairmanship rotates annually between nations divided into regional groupings.

**Aims and objectives:**

1. The Group was formed with the aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.
2. The forum aims to pre-empt the balance of payments problems and turmoil on financial markets by improved coordination of monetary, fiscal, and financial policies.
3. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organization.

**Members of G20:**

- ✓ The members of the G20 consist of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU).
- ✓ The 19 member countries of the forum are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.
- ✓ The European Union is represented by the European Commission and by the European Central Bank.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Q) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Sickle Cell Disease?**

1. It is an inherited disease.
2. It affects the white blood cells and makes the body prone to infections.
3. India has the highest number of sickle cell disease cases in the world.

**Options:**

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

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) Which of the following statements with regards to azooxanthellate Corals are incorrect?**

1. The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae.
2. They derive nourishment from the sun.

**Choose the correct code:**

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and derive nourishment from capturing different forms of planktons and not from the sun.
- Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kutch contains some of the most northerly coral reefs in the world.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands are rich with flourishing island corals.

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