

# 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

### ❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

**Q) Explain the findings of the Rohini commission on sub-categorisation of the OBCs.**

**Context:**

The Centre has extended the tenure of The Commission to Examine Sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) headed by Justice G Rohini, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

The Commission, constituted nearly five years ago, has got 10 extensions so far. It now has a deadline until January 31 next year to submit its report.

**OBCs:**

- Other Backward Class is a collective term used to classify castes which are educationally or socially disadvantaged.
- It is one of several official classifications of the population of India, along with General Class, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs).
- The OBCs were found to comprise 55% of the country's population by the Mandal Commission report of 1980, and were determined to be 41% in 2006.

**Sub-Categorization of OBCs:**

- The idea is to create sub-categories within the larger group of OBCs for the purpose of reservation.
- OBCs are granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under the central government.
- This has been a legal debate for other reservation categories too.
- In September last year, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court reopened the debate on sub-categorization of SCs and STs for reservations.

**Establishment of Rohini Commission:**

1. Only a few affluent communities among the over 2,600 included in the Central List of OBCs have secured a major part of the reservation.
2. Sub-categories within OBCs would ensure "equitable distribution" of representation among all OBC communities.
3. It was to examine this that the Rohini Commission was constituted on October 2, 2017.

**Commission's brief:**

It was originally set up with three terms of reference:

- To examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of OBCs
- To work out for a scientific approach for sub-categorization within such OBCs
- To take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of OBCs
- To study the various entries in the Central List of OBCs and recommend correction of any repetitions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and errors of spelling or transcription.

**When was it meant to submit its report?**

- At the time it was set up, the Commission was given 12 weeks to submit its report, but has since been given 10 extensions.
- There is a lot of work to be done.
- The NCBC until December 2020, over Rs 1.92 crore had been spent on the Commission including salary, consultant fees and other expenses.

**Progress:**

- The Commission is ready with the draft report on sub-categorization.
- Among the challenges it has faced, one has been the absence of data for the population of various communities to compare with their representation in jobs and admissions.
- The Commission proposed for a all-India survey to estimate caste-wise population of OBCs.
- Since then the government has been silent on this, whereas groups of OBCs have been demanding enumeration of OBCs in the Census.

**Findings:**

- ✓ In 2018, the Commission analysed the data of 1.3 lakh central jobs given under OBC quota over the preceding five years.
- ✓ It examined OBC admissions to central higher education institutions, including universities, IITs, NITs, IIMs and AIIMS, over the preceding three years.
- ✓ 97% of all jobs and educational seats have gone to just 25% of all sub-castes classified as OBCs;
- ✓ 95% of these jobs and seats have gone to just 10 OBC communities;
- ✓ 983 OBC communities — 37% of the total — have zero representation in jobs and educational institutions;
- ✓ 994 OBC sub-castes have a total representation of only 2.68% in recruitment and admissions.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, it is visible that a small chunk of communities is enjoying almost the entire OBC reservation. Hence it is a cause of worry and needs due cognizance at a larger level.

**Source: Indian Express**

**GS 3****❖ ECONOMY**

**Q) What is the Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) law of European Union? Explain its impact on curtailing money laundering.**

**Context:**

The Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) law of European Parliament is the first comprehensive regulation for cryptos, and some expect it to become a trendsetter for crypto regulation globally.

**MiCA Legislation:**

- The MiCA law seeks to address concerns like money-laundering, protection of consumers and investors, accountability of crypto firms, stablecoins and the environmental footprint of crypto mining.
- It would regulate the “wild west” of crypto assets and provide legal certainty for those issuing crypto assets, while ensuring high standards for investors and consumers.
- It also excludes non-fungible tokens, but the EU may make a horizontal legislation for NFTs in 18 months, after a separate assessment.

**How will MiCA regulate stablecoins?**

- The efficacy of stablecoins, which claim to be less volatile than other cryptos, came into question after the crash of some crypto-currencies.
- The MiCA would mandate that stablecoin issuers maintain minimum liquidity to provide for sudden large withdrawals by users, and the reserves must also be protected from insolvency.
- The European Banking Authority (EBA) has been brought in to supervise stablecoins, and the law asks stablecoin issuers to provide claims to investors free of charge.
- In addition, large coins which are used as a means of payment will be capped at €200 million worth of transactions per day.

**How will the new law regulate money laundering?**

MiCA requires the EBA to maintain a public register of non-compliant crypto asset service providers (CASPs). Additional checks will be required, in line with the EU Anti-Money-Laundering (AML) framework.

**How does it address green concerns?**

- ✓ Under MiCA, crypto companies will be required to declare their environmental and climate footprint.
- ✓ The European Securities and Markets Authority will develop regulatory technical standards on methodologies, content and presentation of such information.
- ✓ The EC will also have to provide a report on the impact of crypto assets on environment.
- ✓ It would introduce mandatory minimum sustainability standards for mining mechanisms, especially the proof-of-work system which raises overall computing power.

**Will it affect Indian regulations?**

- India’s crypto regulations seem to have taken a back seat at the moment.
- Industry executives and experts say the government and industry are more concerned about taxation.
- India levied a 30% tax on income from transfer of cryptos from April, and added a 1% tax deduction at source from 1 July.
- This, along with the overall bear market, has depressed trading volumes, and revenues of crypto exchanges.
- Indian regulators are also expected to consider rules being developed in the US before taking concrete decisions.

**Source: Mint**

## ❖ ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

**Q) Explain the significance of the Forest Rights Act to the tribals.**

**Context:**

The Odisha government is chasing an ambitious target of completing the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) by granting all kinds of rights mandated under the historic Act by 2024.

**Forest Rights Act (FRA):**

- The symbiotic relationship between forests and forest-dwelling communities found recognition in the National Forest Policy, 1988.
- The policy called for the need to associate tribal people in the protection, regeneration and development of forests.
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, was enacted in this regard.
- It aimed to protect the marginalised socio-economic class of citizens and balance the right to environment with their right to life and livelihood.

**Provisions of the 2006 Act:**

- The Act recognizes that tribal and other traditional forest-dwelling communities would be hard put to provide documentary evidence for their claims.
- Rule 13 of the Act, therefore, stipulates that the Gram Sabhas should consider more than one evidence in determining forest rights.
- The rule sanctions a wide range of evidence, including “statements by village elders”, “community rights” and “physical attributes such as houses, huts and permanent improvements made to land such as levelling, bunds and check dams”.
- The forest rights claims of these tribes and forest-dwellers are mostly rejected by the States.
- Being poor and illiterate, living in remote areas, they do not know the appropriate procedure for filing claims.
- The gram sabhas, which initiate the verification of their claims, are low on awareness of how to deal with them.

**Forest rights importance for tribals:**

- ✓ Aimed at undoing the “historic injustice” meted out to forest-dependent communities due to curtailment of their customary rights over forests, the FRA came into force in 2008.
- ✓ It is important as it recognises the community’s right to use, manage and conserve forest resources, and to legally hold forest land that these communities have used for cultivation and residence.
- ✓ It also underlines the integral role that forest dwellers play in the sustainability of forests and in the conservation of biodiversity.
- ✓ It is of greater significance inside protected forests like national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves as traditional dwellers then become a part of management of the protected forests.

**Source: The Hindu**

## SNIPPETS

### GS 1

#### ❖ GEOGRAPHY

**Q) What is a Derecho? Explain its occurrence.**

**Context:**

States of Nebraska, Minnesota and Illinois in the US were hit by a storm system called a Derecho which turned the skies green.

**Derecho:**

- A derecho is a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm that is associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms.
- The name comes from the Spanish word 'la derecha' which means 'straight'.
- Straight-line storms are those in which thunderstorm winds have no rotation unlike a tornado.
- Being a warm-weather phenomenon, a derecho generally – not always – occurs during summertime beginning May, with most hitting in June and July.
- However, they are a rare occurrence as compared to other storm systems like tornadoes or hurricanes.

**Why does the sky turn green during the derecho?**

- Severe thunderstorms result in a 'green sky' due to light interacting with the huge amount of water they hold.
- The big raindrops and hail scatter away all but the blue wavelengths due to which primarily blue light penetrates below the storm cloud.
- This blue then combines with the red-yellow of the afternoon or the evening sun to produce green.

**Different types of derechos:**

They fall into three categories – progressive, serial and hybrid.

1. Progressive derecho is associated with a short line of thunderstorms that may travel for hundreds of miles along a relatively narrow path. It is a summer phenomenon.
2. Serial derecho, on the other hand, has an extensive squall line – wide and long – sweeping across a large area. It usually occurs during spring or fall.
3. Hybrid derecho are that ones have the features of both progressive and serial derechos.

**Where do derechos usually occur?**

- ✓ They mostly occur across central and eastern parts of the United States.
- ✓ Derechos have also been documented elsewhere across the world.
- ✓ In 2010, Russia witnessed its first documented derecho.
- ✓ They have also swept through Germany and Finland, and more recently in Bulgaria and Poland.

**Source: Indian Express**

**Q) Which of the following statements with regard to the State Ranking Index for NFSA report is incorrect?**

1. Odisha was given the highest ranking in the recently released first-ever edition of the index.
2. The report was prepared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

**Options:**

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

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

**Q) ‘Karakalpakstan’, recently in the news is a place in:**

- a) Turkmenistan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Kazakhstan

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Karakalpakstan is an autonomous republic within Uzbekistan. It occupies the whole northwestern part of Uzbekistan. The capital is Nukus.
- At least 18 people were killed in the Uzbek region of Karakalpakstan when protests erupted last week over plans to limit its autonomy.

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