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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

09.07.2022

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 1

❖ GEOGRAPHY

Q) Explain the causes of cloudburst and its impact on climate change.

Context:

At least eight people have died after a cloudburst occurred at the Amarnath Cave Shrine near Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

Cloudburst:

- Cloudbursts are short-duration, intense rainfall events over a small area.
- According to the IMD, it is a weather phenomenon with unexpected precipitation exceeding 100mm/h over a geographical region of approximately 20-30 square km.

Causes Cloudburst:

1. A study published last year studied the meteorological factors behind the cloudburst over the Kedarnath region.
2. They analysed atmospheric pressure, temperature, rainfall, cloud water content, cloud fraction, cloud particle radius, cloud mixing ratio, total cloud cover, wind speed, wind direction, and relative humidity during the cloudburst, before as well as after the cloudburst.
3. The results showed that during the cloudburst, the relative humidity and cloud cover was at the maximum level with low temperature and slow winds.
4. It is expected that because of this situation a high number of clouds may get condensed at a very rapid rate and result in a cloudburst.

Impact of climate change:

- ✓ Several studies have shown that climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of cloudbursts in many cities across the globe.
- ✓ As temperatures increase the atmosphere can hold more and more moisture and this moisture comes down as a short very intense rainfall for a short duration.
- ✓ This results in flash floods in the mountainous areas and urban floods in the cities.
- ✓ Also, there is evidence suggesting that globally short-duration rainfall extremes are going to become more intense and frequent.

Source: Down To Earth

GS 2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Assess the transformation of India-Japan relations under the former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Context:

Shinzo Abe, the former Prime Minister of Japan, was shot dead.

High points of India-Japan ties under Shinzo Abe

2007: Quad comes into existence under the aegis of Abe and others

2007: Delivers 'Confluence of the Two Seas' address in Indian Parliament

2014: Relations upgraded to special" strategic and global partnership

2015: Chief guest at 26th Jan Republic Day parade

2017: Lays foundation of Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project

Japan under Abe:
- Abe, one of the most consequential leaders of Japan in its post-war history — was the country's longest serving PM.
- During his time in office, Abe was a great friend of India, and a relationship that he invested personally in.
- He also had a special rapport with PM Modi, which came out on multiple occasions.

Transformation in India-Japan ties:
1. Personal visits:
   - During his first stint in 2006-07, Abe visited India and addressed Parliament. He visited India thrice: in January 2014, December 2015, and September 2017.
   - No other Prime Minister of Japan has made so many visits to India. He was the first Japanese PM to be Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in 2014.
2. Bilateral talks
   - The foundation for "Global Partnership between Japan and India" was laid in 2001, and annual bilateral summits were agreed in 2005, Abe accelerated the pace of ties since 2012.

- In August 2007, when Abe visited India for the first time as PM, he delivered the now-famous "Confluence of the Two Seas" speech — laying the foundation for his concept of Indo-Pacific.
- This concept has now become mainstream and one of the main pillars of India-Japan ties.

3. Nuclear deal
   - In September 2014, Modi and Abe agreed to upgrade the bilateral relationship to "Special Strategic and Global Partnership".
   - The relationship grew and encompassed issues from civilian nuclear energy to maritime security, bullet trains to quality infrastructure, Act East policy to Indo-Pacific strategy.
   - When Modi went to Japan in 2014, the Indo-Japan nuclear deal was still uncertain, with Tokyo sensitive about a pact with a non-Nuclear-Proliferation-Treaty member country. Abe convinced the anti-nuclear hawks in Japan to sign the agreement in 2016.

4. Defence cooperation
   - While the security agreement was in place since 2008, under Abe the two sides decided to have Foreign and Defence Ministers' Meeting (2+2).
   - They started negotiations on the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement — a kind of military logistics support pact.
   - In November 2019, the first 2+2 was held in New Delhi.
   - A pact for transfer of defence equipment and technology was also signed in 2015, an uncommon agreement for post-War Japan.

5. Indo-Pacific narrative
   - During Abe's tenure, India and Japan came closer in the Indo-Pacific architecture.
   - Abe had spelt out his vision of the Confluence of the Two Seas in his 2007 speech when the Quad was formed.
   - It collapsed soon, but in October 2017, as Chinese aggression grew in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, and India's borders in Doklam, it was Abe's Japan that really mooted the idea of reviving the Quad.

6. Development cooperation
   - During Abe's visit in 2015, India decided to introduce the Shinkansen System (bullet train).
   - Under Abe's leadership, India and Japan also formed the Act East Forum and are engaged in projects in the Northeast, closely watched by China.
   - The two countries also planned joint projects in Maldives and Sri Lanka among others to counter Beijing's influence.

7. Stand against China
   - Since 2013, Indian and Chinese soldiers have had four publicly known border-stand-offs — April 2013, September 2014, June-August 2017, and the ongoing one since May 2020.
   - Abe's Japan has stood with India through each of them.
   - During the Doklam crisis and the current stand-off, Japan has made statements against China for changing the status quo.

Conclusion:

- ✓ Abe was a valuable G-7 leader for India, focused on strategic, economic and political deliverables, and not getting distracted by India's domestic developments — much to New Delhi's comfort.
- ✓ Having hosted Modi at his ancestral home in Yamanashi, the first such reception extended to a foreign leader, Abe was feted at a roadshow in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Quite befittingly, the Indian government in January 2021 announced the Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian honour, for Abe.

Source: Indian Express

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Explain the legal and constitutional framework to deal with the split in political party.

Context:

The recent split in Shiv Sena and the subsequent political slugfest in Maharashtra has brought into focus the legal and constitutional framework to deal with issues when a party splinters and rival factions assert themselves as the recognised political party.

Culture of functioning political parties in India:

- A political party is an organised group of citizens who hold common views on governance and act as a political unit that seeks to obtain control of government with a view to further the agenda and policy they profess.
- Political parties maintain a continuous connection between the people and those who represent them either in government or in the opposition.
- Political parties in India are extra-constitutional, but they are the breathing air of the political system.
- There are reportedly 2,598 registered political parties, eight national parties and 50 state parties.
- The regulation of these parties and elections in the country is a crucial segment of India's constitutional imagination.
- Yet, the proliferation of political parties also means that established parties splinter.
- A battle ensues for recognition of one faction or group as the recognised political party and securing the party symbol.

Legal and Constitutional framework:

- There is a legal and constitutional framework to deal with issues when a party splinters and rival factions assert themselves as the recognised political party.
- Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the superintendence, direction and control of elections is vested in the Election Commission.
- Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, Rule 5 specifies that the Commission shall specify the symbols that may be chosen by candidates at elections in parliamentary or assembly constituencies and the restrictions to which their choice will be subject.

- Choice and allotment of symbol: The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968 provides for the choice and allotment of symbols in Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies and for recognition of political parties and matters connected.
- Power to recognise party from splinter group: Paragraph 15 of this Order specifies that the Commission has the power to recognise as the party, from amongst splinter groups or rival sections.

Important case on recognition of faction:

1. The classic case on recognition of a faction and accrual of the party symbol is Sadiq Ali v the Election Commission of India (1972).
2. Here, the Supreme Court was confronted with the case of the Indian National Congress which had split into two factions.
3. The Commission ruled in favour of Congress (J) being the recognised political party and the case reached to the Supreme Court,
4. The SC relied on the figures presented to the Commission and found that a substantial majority of the members of the Congress in both its legislative wing as well as the organisational wing supported the Congress (J).
5. The SC concludes that "numbers have importance in a democratic system of government or political set up, and it is neither possible nor permissible to lose sight of them. Indeed, it is the view of the majority which in the final analysis proves decisive in a democratic set-up."
6. It was also concludes that paragraph 15, which gives the Commission power to settle such disputes pertaining to symbols between factions of a party, is entirely legal, for this power accrues from Article 324 that creates the Commission and vests in it the power of superintendence over elections.

Conclusion:

In India's 72nd year as a constitutional democracy, the free and fair regulation of political parties by the Election Commission and the courts is a crucial part of our political success as a nation. The Supreme Court's thoughtful judgment decades ago is a realisation of the importance accorded to judicial oversight of our political parties.

Source: Indian Express

SNIPPETS

GS 2

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Explain the significance of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC).

Context:

The Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) in Meghalaya has called for a meeting of traditional heads to revisit the Instrument of Accession that made the Khasi domain a part of the Indian Union.

KHADC:

- KHADC is an autonomous district council in the state of Meghalaya in India.
- It is one of the three autonomous district councils within Meghalaya, and one of twenty-five autonomous regions of India.
- Meghalaya is divided into three regions dominated by as many matrilineal communities — the Khasis, Garos and Jaintias.
- The Khasi hills straddle 25 Himas or States that formed the Federation of Khasi States.
- Some members of the KHADC agreed that the Instrument of Accession and Annexed Agreement signed with the Dominion of India between December 15, 1947 and March 19, 1948, should be studied.
- The treaty was signed by Governor General of India, Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, on August 17, 1948.

What is Instrument of Accession?

1. It was a legal document first introduced by the Government of India Act, 1935.
2. It was used in 1947 to enable each of the rulers of the princely states under British paramountcy to join one of the new dominions of India or Pakistan created by the Partition.
3. The instruments of accession executed by the rulers, provided for the accession of states to the Dominion of India (or Pakistan) on three subjects, namely, defence, external affairs and communications.

Source: The Hindu

Q) 'Derecho', recently seen in the news can be best defined as which of the following natural phenomenon:

a) Storm

b) Flashfloods

c) Landslides

d) Tsunamis

🔆 Hey from Yesterday –

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal released the first State Ranking Index for implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013. Among the 20 big states and Union Territories (UTs), Odisha topped the list while Goa came last. Tripura ranked first and Ladakh came last among the 14 smaller states and UTs.
- The State Ranking Index for NFSA report was prepared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- The states and UTs were ranked based on three parameters for 2022. The first measures "coverage of NFSA, rightful targeting, and implementation of all provisions under NFSA" while the second "analyzes the delivery platform while considering the allocation of foodgrains, their movement, and last-mile delivery to Fair Price Shops (FPS)". The third "focuses on nutrition initiatives of the department".

UPSC - CSE

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