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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.

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GS 2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) Analyse the security implications of the Rohingya crisis. Explain the role of International Court of Justice in dealing the Rohingya Crisis.

Context:

Judges at the United Nations' highest court have dismissed preliminary objections by Myanmar to a case alleging for genocide against the Rohingya ethnic minority.

Rohingyas:

- Rohingya Muslims comprise one million out of the 53 million people that live in Myanmar, forming the world's largest stateless population in a single country.
- Universally reviled by the country's Buddhist majority, they have been oppressed by the government since the late 1970s when the government launched a campaign to identify 'illegal immigrants.'
- Serious abuses were committed, forcing as many as 250,000 Rohingya refugees to flee to Bangladesh.
- The 1982 Citizenship Law in former Burma made the Rohingyas stateless people.
- They have often been called the most persecuted minority in the world.
- The 1.1 million Rohingya Muslims squeezed precariously into the northwest state of Rakhine, in mainly Buddhist Burma, bordering majority Muslim Bangladesh, are stateless and unwanted.

Persecuted by Myanmar:

- To qualify for citizenship, Rohingya applicants had to renounce their identity And accept being labelled as 'Bengalis' on all official documents.
- They also had to prove that they could trace the presence of their family in Rakhine back three generations, something which is extremely difficult as many Rohingya lack documents or had lost them in 2012.

Rohingya Crisis:

- Since World War II they have been treated increasingly by Burmese authorities as illegal, interloping Bengalis, facing apartheid-like conditions that deny them free movement or state education.
- The army "clearing operations" sparked the mass exodus of Rohingyas in both October 2016.
- In August 2017, were launched after insurgents known as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked several paramilitary check posts.
- Rohingya activists claim the insurgents are mainly young men who have been pushed to breaking point by relentless oppression.

Security Implications:

1. The Rohingya issue and its spill over impact on Myanmar's western peripheral region and security implications figured in the discussions is not clear.

2. In all probability, the import of the ferment caused by the Rohingya migration, efforts of radical Islamists to influence some of the Rohingya youth, and the Pakistan ISI's attempts to capitalise on the situation.
3. Rising anger in the Muslim world about the plight of the Rohingya has compounded fears of home-grown militancy as well as support from international jihadists.
4. Illegal movement of people, combined with human trafficking and cross-border migration, can weaken Myanmar's relations with its neighbour Bangladesh and its ASEAN partners.

What is the case against Myanmar?

- Last year, the Republic of the Gambia moved the ICJ against Myanmar over alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
- The Gambia urged the ICJ to direct Myanmar to stop the genocide, ensure that persons committing genocide are punished, and allow the "safe and dignified return of forcibly displaced Rohingya".
- The Gambia and Myanmar are parties to the Genocide Convention that allows a party to move the ICJ for violations.
- Disputes between the Contracting Parties are settled according to Article 9 of the Genocide Convention.

International support for Gambia's case:

- ✓ The Netherlands and Canada are backing Gambia, saying in 2020 that the country took a laudable step towards ending impunity for those committing atrocities in Myanmar and upholding this pledge.
- ✓ Canada and the Netherlands consider it their obligation to support these efforts which are of concern to all of humanity.

Way Forward:

- i. The ICJ's ruling sets the stage for court hearings, airing evidence of atrocities against the Rohingya that human rights groups and a UN probe say amount to breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention.
- ii. The International Court of Justice rules on disputes between states.
- iii. It is not linked to the International Criminal Court, also based in The Hague, which holds individuals accountable for atrocities.
- iv. Prosecutors at the ICC are investigating crimes committed against the Rohingya who were forced to flee to Bangladesh.
- v. The ruling of the ICJ is binding on Myanmar, and cannot be appealed. However, no means are available to the court to enforce it.

Source: Indian Express

GS 3

❖ ECONOMY

Q) Explain the causes and challenges associated with the nationalisation of the banks.

Context:

Last week, on July 19 was the 53rd anniversary of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi nationalizing 14 banks.

Bank Nationalization:

- In 1955 Imperial Bank of India was nationalized as RBI with State Bank of India to act as the principal agent for extensive banking facilities on a large scale, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.
- The other banks of the princely states were acquired by SBI much earlier.
- However, the nationalization of banks in 1969 and later in 1980 was of a completely different scale.
- In 1969, the move covered 14 (followed by six in 1980) of the largest private sector banks—putting 85% of the deposit base into the hands of the government.
- This brought 80% of the banking segment in India under Government ownership.

Necessity for the nationalisation of the banks:

- After independence, the Government of India (GOI) adopted planned economic development for the country.
- Nationalization was in accordance with the national policy of adopting the socialistic pattern of society.
- The actual course came at the end of a troubled decade when India had suffered many economic as well as political shocks.

Other reasons:

1. Social welfare
2. Controlling private monopolies
3. Expansion of banking to rural areas
4. Reducing regional imbalance to curb the urban-rural divide
5. Priority Sector Lending
6. Mobilization of savings

Immediate causes:

- ✓ There were two wars with China in 1962 and Pakistan in 1965 that put immense pressure on public finances.
- ✓ Banks were failing largely due to speculative financial activities when Indira Gandhi became the prime minister in 1967.
- ✓ Two successive years of drought had not only led to food shortages but also compromised national security because of the dependence on American food shipments.

- ✓ Subsequently, a three-year plan holiday affected aggregate demand as public investment was reduced.
- ✓ Agriculture needed a capital infusion, with the initiation of the Green Revolution in India which aimed to make the country self-sufficient in food security.
- ✓ The collapse of banks was causing distress among people, who were losing their hard-earned money in the absence of a strong government support and legislative protection to their money.

Post-nationalization challenges:

Having ownership and operational control of the banks was a challenging task for the government. The banks were constantly challenged on their profitability parameters—particularly RRBs which had both geographical and portfolio concentration risks.

Establishing regional balance:

- The objective of social control was about making banking sector accessible in areas where these services were not accessible.
- The state established 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) between two nationalizations.
- While nationalization, branch licensing policy and priority sector lending targets helped the banks to go to rural areas and certain sectors, it did not achieve regional balance.
- Of the 20 banks that were nationalized, seven were concentrated in south India, six in west India, four in north India and three in east India.
- The expanded rural branch network followed the extant regional concentration, bringing more intensive banking in southern and western regions.

How was regional balance achieved then?

- This skew was partially set right by two initiatives. The first was an institutional intervention of opening 196 RRBs which had focused area of operation.
- The RRBs contributed significantly to reduce the regional imbalance with their expanding branch network in the 1980s.
- RRBs also had a greater proportion of their loans flowing to priority sector in general and agriculture in particular.
- The second was the policy on lead bank scheme where one bank was assigned as a lead for each district.
- The lead bank was responsible for the growth and penetration of banking in districts and had to achieve it in coordination with other banks and the state machinery.
- A “district credit” plan (euphemism for a banking plan), dovetailed with the government schemes, was to be prepared and monitored by the lead bank.

Regional Rural Banks:

- a. RRBs are a shade better when it comes to rural lending.
- b. While they have deployed 72% of the rural and semi-urban deposits as credit in those areas, the figure for urban understandably is very low, and most of these funds have gone into investments.
- c. Small Finance Banks
- d. The new small finance banks (SFBs) give an entirely different picture—a large number of them are MFIs that converted into banks.

- e. These institutions are trying to collect deposits from the middle and upper middle class and deploy those resources towards the poor.
- f. From a paradigm point of view, possibly SFBs are the most interesting institutions that have turned the tables and are trying to achieve from the private sector the objectives set out in the bank nationalization.

Source: Indian Express

SNIPPETS

GS 2

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) What are the implications of the public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) being declared?

Context:

The World Health Organization's Director-General has declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) July 23, 2022.

PHEIC:

Definition: Under the International Health Regulations (IHR), a public health emergency is defined as "an extraordinary event which is determined, as provided in these Regulations: to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease; and to potentially require a coordinated international response".

What criteria does the WHO follow to declare PHEIC?

PHEIC is declared in the event of some "serious public health events" that may endanger international public health. The responsibility of declaring an event as an emergency lies with the Director-General of the WHO and requires the convening of a committee of members.

Implications of a PHEIC being declared:

- ✓ The PHEIC is the highest level of alert the global health body can issue.
- ✓ There are some implications of declaring a PHEIC for the host country.
- ✓ Only polio and SARS-CoV-2 were ongoing PHEIC prior to monkeypox.
- ✓ Declaring a PHEIC may lead to restrictions on travel and trade.

Source: The Hindu

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Explain the significance of the Anushilan Samiti.

Context:

Union Education and Skill Development Minister has urged NCERT and the Education fraternity to include enough information about Anushilan Samiti, especially in the upcoming National Curriculum Framework.

Anushilan Samiti:

- Anushilan Samiti was an Indian fitness club, which was actually used as an underground society for anti-British revolutionaries.
- It was founded by Satish Chandra Pramatha Mitra, Aurobindo Ghose and Sarala Devi.
- In the first quarter of the 20th century it supported revolutionary violence as the means for ending British rule in India.
- The organisation arose from a conglomeration of local youth groups and gyms (akhara) in Bengal in 1902.
- It had two prominent, somewhat independent, arms in East and West Bengal, Dhaka Anushilan Samiti (centred in Dhaka), and the Jugantar group (centred in Calcutta).
- It challenged British rule in India by engaging in militant nationalism, including bombings, assassinations, and politically motivated violence.

Revolutionary activities:

- ✓ The Samiti collaborated with other revolutionary organisations in India and abroad.
- ✓ It was led by the nationalists Aurobindo Ghosh and his brother Barindra Ghosh, influenced by philosophies like Italian Nationalism, and the Pan-Asianism of Kakuzo Okakura.
- ✓ The Samiti was involved in a number of noted incidents of revolutionary attacks against British interests and administration in India, including early attempts to assassinate British Raj officials.
- ✓ These were followed by the 1912 attempt on the life of the Viceroy of India, and the Seditious conspiracy during World War I, led by Rash Behari Bose and Jatindranath Mukherjee respectively.

Defiance from militant nationalism:

- The organisation moved away from its philosophy of violence in the 1920s due to the influence of the Indian National Congress and the Gandhian non-violent movement.
- A section of the group, notably those associated with Sachindranath Sanyal, remained active in the revolutionary movement, founding the Hindustan Republican Association in north India.
- A number of Congress leaders from Bengal, especially Subhash Chandra Bose, were accused by the British Government of having links with the organisation during this time.
- The Samiti's violent and radical philosophy revived in the 1930s, when it was involved in the Kakori conspiracy, the Chittagong armoury raid, and other actions against the administration in British-occupied India.

Other personalities associated with Anushilan Samiti:

- Legends like, Deshabandhu Chittaranjan Das, Surendranath Tagore, Jatindranath Banerjee, Bagha Jatin were associated with Anushilan Samiti.
- Dr Hedgewar who established the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was also an alumnus of the Samity.

Source: PIB

Q) Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to fertilizer import and export by India?

1. With respect to Muriate of Potash (MoP) fertilizer, India is completely dependent on imports.
2. With respect to Urea fertilizer, India enjoys self-sufficiency and is able to meet all demand through domestic production.

Options:

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

 **Hey from Yesterday –**

Q) Which of the following statements with respect to Kalbelia is correct?

1. The Kalbelia are a snake charming tribe in Rajasthan.
2. Kalbelia dance and songs are now on UNESCO's representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Options:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Kalbelia are a snake charming tribe from the Thar Desert in Rajasthan.
- Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan were recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage in 2010.
- India has been elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the 2022-2026 cycle.
- India has served as a member of the ICH Committee twice – from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.
- With 14 inscriptions on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, India also ranks high in the listing of intangible cultural heritage.

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