

SosinClasses

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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 1

❖ CLIMATE CHANGE

Q) Assess India's progress towards Nationally Determined Commitments. Explain its recent commitments made at Glasgow.

Context:

India ratified pledges made by Prime Minister in Glasgow to accelerate the country's reliance on renewable energy to power the economy and be effectively free from use of fossil fuels by 2070.

Significance of the commitments:

- The approved pledges were fewer than those PM committed to.
- What is NDC (Nationally Determined Commitments)?
- NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals.
- They embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs that it intends to achieve.
- Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.
- The agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs.

India's NDC:

- India's NDC, or nationally determined commitments, have been updated with these two promises, both of which are enhancements of existing targets, and would be submitted to the UN climate body.
- The 2015 Paris Agreement requires every country to set self-determined climate targets which have to be progressively updated with more ambitious goals every few years.
- India's first NDC was submitted in 2015, just before the Paris Agreement was finalised.
- India's original NDC contained three main targets for 2030:
 - A 33 to 35 per cent reduction in emissions intensity (or emissions per unit of GDP) from 2005 levels
 - At least 40 per cent of total electricity generation to come from non-fossil renewable sources
 - An increase in forest cover to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Commitment made at Glasgow:

1. At the Glasgow meeting last year, Modi promised to strengthen India's climate commitments.
2. He made five promises, and called it the 'Panchamrit', the nectar that Indians prepare using five ingredients.

3. Two of these were upward revision of existing targets, the ones that have been made official and put in the updated NDC. Accordingly,
4. India will now reduce its emission intensity by at least 45 per cent, instead of just 33 to 35 per cent, from 2005 levels by 2030.
5. Also, it would now ensure that at least 50 per cent of its total electricity generation, not just 40 per cent, would come from renewable sources by 2030.
6. The forestry target has not been touched.

India's climate targets:

- PM had said that at least 500 GW of India's installed electricity generation capacity in 2030 would be based on non-fossil fuel sources.
- Also, he had promised that the country would ensure avoided emissions of at least one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent between now and 2030.
- These two promises have not been converted into official targets.
- But these are closely linked with others, and any progress on official targets would get reflected in these goals as well.

Net Zero:

- Modi had also announced a net zero target for India for the year 2070.
- Net zero is a situation in which a country's greenhouse gas emissions are offset entirely, either by absorption of carbon dioxide.
- This may be done through natural processes like photosynthesis in plants, or through physical removal of greenhouse gases using futuristic technologies.
- But net zero is a long-term target and does not qualify to be included in the NDC which seeks five-to-10-year climate targets from countries.

India's progress:

- The upward revision of the two climate targets — those relating to reductions in emissions intensity and proportion of non-fossil sources in electricity generation — do not come as a surprise.
- India is on way to achieve its existing targets well ahead of the 2030 timeline.
- India's emissions intensity was 24 per cent lower than the 2005 levels in the year 2016 itself, the last year for which official numbers are available.
- It is very likely that the 33 to 35 per cent reduction target has already been achieved, or is very close to being achieved.
- A further reduction of 10-12 per cent from here, to meet the new target, does not appear too challenging, even though these reductions get progressively tougher to achieve.
- The other target — having at least 40 per cent of electricity coming from non-fossil fuels — has officially been reached.

Source: The Hindu

GS 2

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Critically analyse the issues with the Personal Data Protection Bill.

Context:

The government has withdrawn the Personal Data Protection Bill from Parliament after several amendments were proposed by the Joint-Parliamentary Committee.

Personal Data:

- Data can be broadly classified into two types: personal and non-personal data.
- Personal data pertains to characteristics, traits or attributes of identity, which can be used to identify an individual.
- Non-personal data includes aggregated data through which individuals cannot be identified.
- For example, while an individual's own location would constitute personal data; information derived from multiple drivers' location, which is often used to analyse traffic flow, is non-personal data.

Data Protection:

Data protection refers to policies and procedures seeking to minimise intrusion into the privacy of an individual caused by collection and usage of their personal data.

Why was a bill brought for Personal Data Protection?

- In August 2017, the Supreme Court had held that Privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- The Court also observed that privacy of personal data and facts is an essential aspect of the right to privacy.
- In July 2017, a Committee of Experts, chaired by Justice BN Srikrishna, was set up to examine various issues related to data protection in India.
- The committee submitted its report, along with a Draft Personal Data Protection Bill, 2018 to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in July 2018.

Personal data regulated:

- Currently, the usage and transfer of personal data of citizens is regulated by the Information Technology (IT) Rules, 2011, under the IT Act, 2000.
- The rules hold the companies using the data liable for compensating the individual, in case of any negligence in maintaining security standards while dealing with the data.

Issues with IT Rules, 2011

- The IT rules were a novel attempt at data protection at the time they were introduced but the pace of development of digital economy has shown its shortcomings.
- For instance, (i) the definition of sensitive personal data under the rules is narrow, and (ii) some of the provisions can be overridden by a contract. Further, the IT Act applies only to companies, not to the government.

What the Personal Data Protection Bill sought to provide?

1. Collection and storage: The bill regulate personal data related to individuals, and the processing, collection and storage of such data.
2. Data Principal: Under the bill, a data principal is an individual whose personal data is being processed.
3. Data fiduciary: The entity or individual who decides the means and purposes of data processing is known as data fiduciary.
4. Data processing: The Bill governs the processing of personal data by both government and companies incorporated in India.
5. Data localization: It also governs foreign companies, if they deal with personal data of individuals in India.
6. General consent: The Bill provides the data principal with certain rights with respect to their personal data. Any processing of personal data can be done only on the basis of consent given by data principal.
7. Data Protection Authority: To ensure compliance with the provisions of the Bill, and provide for further regulations with respect to processing of personal data of individuals, the Bill sets up a DPA.



Issues with the PDP Bill:

- Exemptions to the govt: Section 35 of the bill permits the Central Government to exempt any agency of the Government from the provisions of the law.
- No reasonable exemptions: There is no sufficient reason for government agencies to be exempted from basic provisions of the Bill.
- Easy breach: Though this would be subject to procedures, safeguards, and oversight mechanisms to be prescribed by the Government.
- Executive hegemony: There is no scope for oversight over the executive's decision to issue such an order.
- Arbitrary and intrusive: As demonstrated by the Pegasus case, the current frameworks for protecting citizens from arbitrary and intrusive State action lack robustness.

Why is the state given exemption?

- Biggest needy of Data: The State is one of the biggest processors of data, and has a unique ability to impact the lives of individuals.
- Welfare objectives: It has a monopoly over coercive powers as well have the obligation to provide welfare and services.

Issues with Exemption to State:

- ✓ Grounds of expediency: the use of this provision on grounds of expediency is an extremely low bar for the Government to meet.
- ✓ Non requirement for exemption order: There is no requirement for an exemption order to be proportionate to meeting a particular State function.
- ✓ No oversight on executive actions: There is no scope for oversight over the executive's decision to issue such an order or any safeguards prescribed for this process.
- ✓ State surveillance: Section 36(a) of the Bill provides for an exception where personal data is being processed against criminal investigation. This provision could therefore encourage vigilantism or enable privatized surveillance.

Best practices followed across the world:

- The European GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is commonly seen as the pinnacle of data protection regulation worldwide.
- The EU law has in place a separate law that deals with the processing of personal data by law enforcement agencies.
- UK's Data Protection Act dedicates Part 3 that liberalises certain obligations while at the same time ensuring that data protection rights are also protected.

Way forward

Balancing privacy interests with those of public needs (such as that of State security) is a difficult task. This should undergo rigorous consultations in Parliament taking into confidence all stakeholders. Once debated in Parliament, one can only hope that adequate time and attention is given to finding a better balance between competing interests.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS**GS 3****❖ INDIAN ECONOMY**

Q) Explain the factors considered for Fair and Remunerative Price of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23.

Context:

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October – September) at ₹305 per quintal.

FRP:

- FRP is fixed under a sugarcane control order, 1966.
- It is the minimum price that sugar mills are supposed to pay to the farmers.

- However, states determine their own State Agreed Price (SAP) which is generally higher than the FRP.

Factors considered for FRP:

The amended provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 provides for fixation of FRP of sugarcane having regard to the following factors:

- a) cost of production of sugarcane;
- b) return to the growers from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;
- c) availability of sugar to consumers at a fair price;
- d) price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by sugar producers;
- e) recovery of sugar from sugarcane;
- f) the realization made from the sale of by-products viz. molasses, bagasse, and press mud or their imputed value;
- g) reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits.

Who determines Sugarcane prices?

- Sugarcane prices are determined by the Centre as well as States.
- The Centre announces Fair and Remunerative Prices which are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by Prime Minister.
- The State Advised Prices (SAP) are announced by key sugarcane producing states which are generally higher than FRP.

Minimum Selling Price (MSP) for Sugar:

- The price of sugar is market-driven & depends on the demand & supply of sugar.
- However, with a view to protecting the interests of farmers, the concept of MSP of sugar has been introduced since 2018.
- MSP of sugar has been fixed taking into account the components of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills.

Basis of price determination:

- ✓ With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966, the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane in 2009-10.
- ✓ The cane price announced by the Central Government is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ✓ This is done in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from associations of the sugar industry.

Source: The Hindu

Q) Explain the significance of the World Dairy Summit 2022.**Context:**

At a time when several milk-producing centers are battling Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), India will host the International Dairy Federation's World Dairy Summit 2022 in Greater Noida.

World Dairy Summit:

- The World Dairy Summit is an annual meeting of the global dairy sector, bringing together approximately 1500 participants from all over the world.
- The participant profile includes CEOs and employees of dairy processing companies, dairy farmers, suppliers to the dairy industry, academicians, government representatives, etc.
- The summit is composed of a series of scientific and technical conferences and social events including a welcome reception, farmers' dinner, gala dinner as well as technical and social tours.
- The last World Dairy Summit was organised in 1974 in New Delhi.

Significance of the event:

- ✓ It is a prestigious event for us as India is now the largest milk producer in the world and we have the highest number of cattle.
- ✓ The last time this event was held, India was import-dependent and now we are self-sufficient.

Source: Indian Express

Q) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to forest cover in the North-eastern states of India?

- 1) All the North-eastern states of India have more than 70% of the geographical area under forest cover.
- 2) All the North-eastern states of India have witnessed decline in forest area over the past decade.

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 is/are correct with respect to Exercise Pitch Black?

- 1) It is an annual multilateral air warfare training exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force.
- 2) India has been a participant in this exercise since its inception.

Options:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force.
- It ensures that the training and integration of forces that occur during this exercise directly supports the Air Force's ability to conduct operations.
- India and Australia both border the Indian Ocean and have a shared interest in the maintenance of freedom of navigation and trade.
- Australia recognises India's critical role in supporting security, stability and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the Pitch-Black exercise for the first time in 2018.

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