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INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAMINATION

(IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, IRMS, IFoS & Other Civil Services)

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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

06.08.2022

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) Explain the defence strategy of Taiwan to fight back China's occupation of its land.

Context:

As the long-range, live-fire drills began with China's Eastern Theatre Command firing several ballistic missiles, Taiwan said that it was "preparing for war without seeking war". What is Taiwan's strategy to fight back in case China attempts to occupy it by force?

Military Doctrine:

Military doctrine is the expression of how military forces contribute to campaigns, major operations, battles, and engagements. It is a guide to action, rather than being hard and fast rules. Doctrine provides a common frame of reference across the military.

Why do need such a doctrine?

It helps standardize operations, facilitating readiness by establishing common ways of accomplishing military tasks. It decides what you buy, produce, or prioritize, all of which flows from deciding your best fighting foot.

'Porcupine Doctrine':

- This doctrine was proposed in 2008 by US Naval War College research professor William S Murray.
- It is a strategy of asymmetric warfare focused on fortifying a weak state's defences to exploit the enemy's weaknesses rather than taking on its strengths.
- It is about building defences that would ensure that Taiwan could be attacked and damaged but not defeated, at least without unacceptably high costs and risks.

How does this work?

- ✓ It identifies three defensive layers in the porcupine approach.
- ✓ The outer layer is about intelligence and reconnaissance to ensure defence forces are fully prepared. Behind this come plans for guerrilla warfare at sea with aerial support from sophisticated aircraft provided by the US.
- ✓ The innermost layer relies on the geography and demography of the island.
- ✓ While the outer surveillance layer would work to prevent a surprise attack, the second one would make it difficult for China to land its troops on the island in the face of a guerrilla campaign at sea using "agile, missile-armed small ships, supported by helicopters and missile launchers".

Asymmetric systems of defence:

- Asymmetric systems are ones that are small, numerous, smart, stealthy, mobile and hard to be detected and countered and associated with innovative tactics and employments.
- These asymmetric capabilities will be aimed at striking the operational centre of gravity and key nodes of the enemy.

- The geographic advantages of the Taiwan Strait shall be tapped to shape favourable conditions to disrupt the operational tempo of the enemy, frustrate its attempts and moves of invasion.
- Taiwan underlined its shift to an asymmetric approach by adopting the Overall Defence Concept (ODC) in 2018.

Need for such a strategy:

- China enjoys overwhelming military superiority over Taiwan.
- Over the past decade, Beijing has developed far more accurate and precise weapon systems to target Taiwan.
- China has been more vocal about its intention to “reunite” the island with the mainland, by force or coercion if needed.
- The PLA has already achieved the capabilities needed to conduct an air and naval blockade, cyberattacks, and missile strikes against Taiwan.
- PLA leaders now likely assess they have, or will soon have, the initial capability needed to conduct a high-risk invasion of Taiwan (following Russia’s path).

How easy will it be for China?

- ✓ Missile strikes, cyberattacks, air and naval blockade aside, undertaking a full-scale invasion across the Taiwan Strait, with attendant risks of anti-ship and anti-air attacks, could present challenges for China.
- ✓ The PLA is estimated to have air and naval resources to carry out an initial landing of 25,000 or more troops, which could increase if it deploys civilian ships to meet its military objectives.
- ✓ However, it will have to first select and secure a suitable beachhead from among the handful that is available.
- ✓ Also, with small and agile weapons systems, Taiwan can turn its coastline into a kill zone that would deny China a walkover.
- ✓ Beijing would have to rely on cyberattacks, missile strikes on Taiwan’s air bases and runways, and a blockade to choke it into surrendering.

Source: Indian Express

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Assess the issues associated with the abortion in Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971.

Context:

The Supreme Court has said it may loosen the restrictive grip of a 51-year-old abortion law that bars unmarried women from terminating pregnancies up to 24 weeks old.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 and its Rules of 2003 prohibit unmarried women who are between 20 weeks and 24 weeks pregnant to abort with the help of registered medical practitioners.

What did the Court say now?

- In a very significant move, the court said that the prohibition was manifestly arbitrary and violative of women's right to bodily autonomy and dignity.
- The danger to life is as much in the case of an unmarried woman as in the case of a married woman said Justice Chandrachud.
- The danger of suffering a mental breakdown is much more prominent for unmarried women, said the court.

Earlier observations:

- ✓ A woman's right to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ✓ She has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity, the court quoted from precedents.
- ✓ The court said forcing a woman to continue with her pregnancy would not only be a violation of her bodily integrity but also aggravate her mental trauma.

Indispensable clause of safety:

The court ordered a medical board to be formed by the AIIMS to check whether it was safe to conduct an abortion on the woman and submit a report in a week.

What is the case?

- A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was hearing the appeal of a woman who wanted to abort her 24-week pregnancy after her relationship failed and her partner left her.
- The lower court had taken an "unduly restrictive view" that her plea for a safe abortion was not covered under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.
- This was since the pregnancy arose from a consensual relationship outside wedlock.

Last amendment:

The court noted that an amendment to the Act in 2021 had substituted the term 'husband' with 'partner', a clear signal that the law covered unmarried women within its ambit.

Reiterating the live-in recognition:

- ✓ Chastising the lower court, the Bench said live-in relationships had already been recognized by the Supreme Court.
- ✓ There were a significant number of people in the social mainstream who see no wrong in engaging in pre-marital sex.
- ✓ The law could not be used to quench "notions of social morality" and unduly interfere in their personal autonomy and bodily integrity.

Source: The Hindu

SNIPPETS

❖ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Q) Explain the significance of the Ration Mitra scheme.

Context:

The Centre has launched a common facility to register names in ration cards on a pilot basis for 11 States and Union Territories.

Ration Mitra:

- Ration Mitra' Portal aims to enable these States to identify and verify the eligible beneficiaries for coverage under the National Food Security Act.
- Named as Ration Mitr, this software developed by the National Informatics Centre can be used to enrol people of any State.
- The portal is an enabler for States/UTs to complete their inclusion exercise under NFSA.
- The NFSA provides food security coverage for 81.35 crore persons in the country. The present NFSA coverage is about 79.74 crore.

About National Food Security (NFS) Act:

1. The NFS Act, 2013 aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two-thirds of India's 1.2 billion people.
2. It converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programs of the GoI.
3. It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and the Public Distribution System (PDS).
4. Further, the NFSA 2013 recognizes maternity entitlements.
5. The Midday Meal Scheme and the ICDS are universal in nature whereas the PDS will reach about two-thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas).
6. Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and certain categories of children are eligible for daily free cereals.

Key provisions of NFSA

- The NFSA provides a legal right to persons belonging to "eligible households" to receive foodgrains at a subsidised price.
- It includes rice at Rs 3/kg, wheat at Rs 2/kg and coarse grain at Rs 1/kg — under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). These are called central issue prices (CIPs).

Source: The Hindu

❖ INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q) “India has said the statement by the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation on Jammu and Kashmir reeked of bigotry.” Comment.

Context:

The Ministry of External Affairs said the Saudi Arabia -based OIC continued to issue statements on J&K at the behest of a serial violator of human rights and notorious promoter of terrorism, indicating Pakistan.

India and OIC:

- At the 45th session of the Foreign Ministers’ Summit in 2018, Bangladesh suggested that India, where more than 10% of the world’s Muslims live, should be given Observer status.
- In 1969, India was dis-invited from the Conference of Islamic Countries in Rabat, Morocco at Pakistan’s behest.
- Then Agriculture Minister Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was dis-invited upon arrival in Morocco after Pakistan President Yahya Khan lobbied against Indian participation.

Recent developments:

- In 2019, India made its maiden appearance at the OIC Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Abu Dhabi, as a “guest of honor”.
- This first-time invitation was seen as a diplomatic victory for New Delhi, especially at a time of heightened tensions with Pakistan following the Pulwama attack.
- Pakistan had opposed the invitation to Swaraj and it boycotted the plenary after the UAE turned down its demand to rescind the invitation.

OIC’s stand on Kashmir:

1. It has been generally supportive of Pakistan’s stand on Kashmir and has issued statements criticizing India.
2. Last year, after India revoked Article 370 in Kashmir, Pakistan lobbied with the OIC for their condemnation of the move.
3. To Pakistan’s surprise, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — both top leaders among the Muslim countries — issued nuanced statements, and were not as harshly critical of New Delhi as Islamabad had hoped.
4. Since then, Islamabad has tried to rouse sentiments among the Islamic countries, but only a handful of them — Turkey and Malaysia — publicly criticized India.

How has India been responding?

- India has consistently underlined that J&K is an integral part of India and is a matter strictly internal to India.
- The strength with which India has made this assertion has varied slightly at times, but never the core message.
- It has maintained its “consistent and well-known” stand that the OIC had no locus standi.
- This time, India went a step ahead and said the grouping continues to allow itself to be used by a certain country “which has a record on religious tolerance, radicalism, and persecution of minorities”.

Way ahead:

- ✓ India now sees the duality of the OIC as untenable, since many of these countries have good bilateral ties and convey to India to ignore OIC statements.
- ✓ But these countries sign off on the joint statements which are largely drafted by Pakistan.
- ✓ India feels it important to challenge the double-speak since Pakistan's campaign and currency on the Kashmir issue has hardly any takers in the international community.

Source: The Hindu

Q) With respect to NavIC, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- 1) It can help in navigation on land, air, sea and also in disaster management.
- 2) NavIC satellites are placed at a higher orbit than the GPS of United States.

Options:

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

 **Hey from Yesterday –****Q) The Sunderlal Committee, appointed by Jawaharlal Nehru is closely related to**

- a) Annexation of Hyderabad
- b) Assam and Arunachal Pradesh Border Dispute
- c) Defence Production and Procurement
- d) States Reorganisation

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Sunderlal Committee, appointed by Jawaharlal Nehru reported about the killings in the Hyderabad region post-Operation Polo.
- Operation Polo was the codename for the police action against the Princely State of Hyderabad which led to the Annexation of Hyderabad.

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