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GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. 'Indianizing' the Legal System and SC's Views

At least two Supreme Court judges have in the past few months openly expressed the need to "Indianize" the legal system.

- This week, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer underscored the need to embrace the great legal traditions as per Manu, Kautilya, Katyayana, Brihaspati, Narada, Parashara, Yajnavalkya and other legal giants of ancient India.
- Continued neglect of their great knowledge and adherence to alien colonial legal system is detrimental to the goals of our Constitution and against our national interests, he said.
- He emphasized the need for Indianization of the legal system to decolonize the Indian legal system.
- He concluded that this colonial legal system is not suitable for the Indian population.

Background

Then **CJI P.N. Bhagwati in the M.C. Mehta Case** way back in 1986 has said that-

- We cannot allow our judicial thinking to be constricted by reference to the law as it prevails in England or for the matter of that in any other foreign country.
- We no longer need the crutches of a foreign legal order.
- We are certainly prepared to receive light from whatever source it comes from, but we have to build up our own jurisprudence.

Indianization of Judiciary

- Last month, CJI N.V. Ramana called for the "Indianization" of the legal system to provide greater access to justice to the poor as the "need of the hour".
- CJI emphasized this as an adaptation to the practical realities of our society and localize our justice delivery systems.
- For example, parties from a rural place fighting a family dispute are usually made to feel out of place in the court, the CJI clarified.

Major suggestions by CJI:

(A) Simplification

- The simplification of justice delivery should be our pressing concern.
- It is crucial to make justice delivery more transparent, accessible and effective.
- Procedural barriers often undermine access to justice.
- The Chief Justice said both judges and lawyers have to create an environment which is comforting for the litigants and other stakeholders.

(B) Alternate dispute mechanisms

- The CJI said alternate dispute mechanisms like mediation and conciliation would go a long way in reducing pendency, unnecessary litigation and save resources.

Recent moves of Indianization

- Supreme Court judgments show that the Indian legal system had made an early start at consciously getting rid of the “crutches” of colonial influence.

(1) General principles laid by the SC

- The evolution of laws in India has been through legislation and the binding precedents of the Supreme Court under Article 141 of the Constitution.
- Article 142 of the Constitution of India deals with the Enforcement of decrees and orders of the Supreme Court.

(2) Public Interest Litigation

- The public interest litigation mechanism is truly Indian.

(3) Reference to Indian texts

- Several judgments since the 1980s refer to the works of Manu and Kautilya.
- In the privacy judgment, Justice S.A. Bobde (retired), referred to how “even in the ancient and religious texts of India, a well-developed sense of privacy is evident”.
- He mentions that Kautilya’s “Arthashastra prohibits entry into another’s house, without the owner’s consent”.

Issues with Ancient Texts

- In the Sabarimala Case, the court pointed to the Manusmriti to observe that in these “ancient religious texts and customs, menstruating women have been considered as polluting the surroundings”.
- It went on to hold that practices that legitimize menstrual taboos, due to notions of purity and pollution, limit the ability of menstruating women to attain the freedom of movement and the right of entry to places of worship.

Way forward

- It is time for courts to wake up from their colonial stupor and face the practical realities of Indian society.
- Rules and procedures of justice delivery should be made simple.
- The ordinary, poor, and rural Indian should not be scared of judges or the courts.

2. Executive shows a trend to disrespect court orders

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana recently said **there is a growing tendency to disregard and even disrespect the Court orders by the executive** which is supposed to assist and co-operate for the rule of law to prevail in the nation.

- Highlighting the challenges before the judiciary, the Chief Justice of India said a **‘non-cooperative executive’** is one of the concerns.

Need of the hour:

The executive needs to assist and co-operate for the rule of law to prevail in the nation. Unless the executive and legislation make sincere efforts to fill the judicial vacancies, appoint prosecutors, strengthen infrastructure, and make laws with a clear foresight and stakeholder analysis, the judiciary cannot be held responsible alone.

Significant role played by judiciary in nation-building:

- In the **Kesavananda Bharti case**, the Court for the first time expounded on its power to review amendments to the constitution.

- It was only through such an exposition that the 39th Amendment Act was struck down in **the Indira Gandhi vs. Raj Narain case**.

The power of judicial review:

The power of judicial review is often sought to be branded as judicial overreach. Such generalisations are misguided. The Constitution created three co-equal organs, and in this context, the judiciary has been given the role of reviewing the legality of steps taken by the other two organs. If the judiciary does not have the power of judicial review, then the functioning of democracy in this country would be unthinkable.

What are the concerns now?

- **There is usually no impact assessment or basic scrutiny of constitutionality before passing of legislation.** The minimum that is expected while drafting laws is that they abide by settled Constitutional principles. They must also think of providing effective remedies for issues that may arise out of the law. But these principles seemingly are being ignored. This directly results in the clogging of courts.
- **At times, there are also concerted campaigns in print and social media against judges** if parties do not get a favourable order.
- **Rising number of media trials:** New media tools have the enormous amplifying ability but appear to be incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong, good and bad and the real and fake.

Need of the hour:

1. There is a requirement for domain expertise in the judiciary. We need judges and lawyers with an understanding of developments across various fields.
2. It is necessary to have continued judicial training from technical experts. Legal education needs to keep pace with the times and constantly update their curricula.
3. The judiciary needs a tailor-made platform to meet the requirements such as virtual hearings.

What is Judicial Review?

Judicial review is the power of Judiciary to review any act or order of Legislative and Executive wings and to pronounce upon the constitutional validity when challenged by the affected person.

Judicial review present in India:

1. The power of Judicial Review comes from the Constitution of India itself (Articles 13, 32, 136, 142 and 147 of the Constitution).
2. The power of judicial review is evoked to protect and enforce the fundamental rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution.
3. Article 13 of the Constitution prohibits the Parliament and the state legislatures from making laws that “may take away or abridge the fundamental rights” guaranteed to the citizens of the country.
4. The provisions of Article 13 ensure the protection of the fundamental rights and consider any law “inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights” as void.

3. Steps to monitor illegal liquor manufacturing in Bihar

Bihar government has been undertaking various measures to monitor **illegal liquor manufacturing** in the state. Some of these measures include:

- Usage of drones.
- Appointment of judicial officers as presiding officers in the State’s 74 special courts to hear cases involving the violation of prohibition laws.
- Prohibition and Registration Department, over 3.5 lakh people have been arrested under the law since April 2016. Hundreds of policemen and other officials too have either been suspended or are facing a departmental inquiry.

What are the main grounds raised against prohibition of liquor and in favour of prohibition?

1. **The right of privacy is violated**, which was given voice by the Supreme Court in 2017 in **Puttaswamy judgment**. The Right is associated with the citizens’ right to eat and drink as per their choice.
2. **Ground of manifest arbitrariness**: The law grants health permits and temporary permits to out-of-state tourists. The petition says there are no

intelligible differences in the classes thus being created by the state on who gets to drink and who does not and violates **the Right to Equality under Article 14 of the Constitution.**

The following arguments indicate that such ban is the need of the hour:

1. The Constitution places a responsibility on all state governments to “at least contain, if not curtail, consumption of alcohol” (**Article 47**).
2. Strict state regulation is imperative to discourage regular and excessive consumption of alcohol.
3. Alcohol denudes family resources and reserves and leaves women and children as its most vulnerable victims. A social stigma at least as far as the family unit is concerned is still attached to the consumption of alcohol.
4. Vulnerable persons, either because of age or proclivity towards intoxication or as a feature of peer pressure, more often than not, succumb to this temptation.

Prohibition in Other States:

Alcohol prohibition is in force in the states of Gujarat, Mizoram, Nagaland and the union territory of Lakshadweep.

Related Constitutional Provisions:

State Subject: Alcohol is a subject in the State list under the seventh schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Article 47: The Directive Principle in the Constitution of India states that “The state shall undertake rules to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health”.

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

4. SEBI tweaks share sale norms for IPOs

The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved amendments to a slew of regulations to tighten the Initial Public Offering (IPO) process and norms governing the utilization of IPO proceeds by promoters.

What is an IPO?

- Every company needs money to grow and expand.
- They do this by borrowing or by issuing shares.
- If the company decides to opt for the second route of issuing shares, it must invite public investors to buy its shares.
- This is its first public invitation in the stock market and is called the Initial Public Offering (IPO).

What does it mean for investors to buy shares?

- When one buys such shares, he/she makes an IPO investment.
- He/she gets ownership in the company, proportionate to the value of your shares.
- These shares then get listed on the stock exchange.
- The stock exchange is where you can sell your existing shares in the company or buy more.

How does an IPO work?

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates the entire process of investment via an IPO in India.
- A company intending to issue shares through IPOs first registers with SEBI.
- SEBI scrutinizes the documents submitted, and only then approves them.

Who can hold IPOs?

- It could be a new, young company or an old company that decides to be listed on an exchange and hence goes public.

What are the recent regulations?

- In its board meeting, SEBI approved conditions for sale of shares by significant shareholders in the Offer-For-Sale (OFS) process via an IPO and has extended the lock-in period for anchor investors to 90 days.
- Shares offered for sale by shareholders with more than 20% of pre-issue shareholding of the issuer, should not exceed 50% of their holding.

- If they hold less than 20%, then the offer for sale should not exceed 10% of their holding of the issue.
- These changes are as per proposals recommended by SEBI's Primary Market Advisory Committee.

5. Plea seeks GI tag for Arunachal Apatani textile product

An application seeking a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the Arunachal Pradesh Apatani textile product has been filed by a firm.

Apatani textile

- The Apatani weave comes from the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh living at Ziro, the headquarters of lower Subansiri district.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and also for its angular designs.
- The community weaves its own textiles for various occasions, including rituals and cultural festivals.
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro and jilan or jackets called supuntarii.
- The traditional handloom of this tribe is a type of loin loom, which is called Chichin, and is similar to the traditional handloom of the Nyishi tribe.

What makes it special?

- The people here use different leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing the cotton yarns in their traditional ways.
- Only women folk are engaged in weaving.

About Geographical Indication

- A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- Nodal Agency: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 w.e.f. September 2003.
- GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

- GI is granted for a term of 10 years in India. As of today, more than 300 GI tags has been allocated so far in India (*Wikipedia).
- The tag stands valid for 10 years.

6. PLI scheme for textiles:

The Ministry of Textiles has said that it will accept applications from January 1 for the Production Linked Scheme for Textiles announced in September this year.

About the Scheme:

The Government had launched the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for the textiles sector worth Rs 10,683 crore.

- This is part of a larger PLI scheme for 13 sectors, with a total budgetary outlay of 1.97 lakh crore.

Focus areas?

The **PLI scheme for textiles** aims to promote the production of high value **Man-Made Fibre (MMF) fabrics, garments and technical textiles**.

Eligibility:

1. Any person or company willing to invest a minimum of Rs 300 crore in plant, machinery, equipment and civil works (excluding land and administrative building cost) to produce products of MMF fabrics, garments and products of technical textiles will be eligible to participate in the first part of the scheme.
2. Investors willing to spend a minimum of Rs 100 crore under the same conditions shall be eligible to apply in the second part of the scheme.

Incentives:

1. Under PLI, the Centre will subsidise eligible manufacturers by paying incentives on incremental production.
2. Companies investing over Rs 300 crore in plant, machinery, equipment and civil works to produce the identified products will get an incentive of 15 percent of their turnover, which needs to be Rs 600 crore in the third year.
3. The companies investing between Rs 100 crore and Rs 300 crore will also be eligible to receive duty refunds and incentives (lower than 15 percent of their turnover).
4. The government expects to achieve “fresh investment of over Rs 19,000 crore and a cumulative turnover of more than Rs 3 lakh crore”.

Significance:

The PLI scheme will provide an immense boost to domestic manufacturing, and prepare the industry for making a big impact in global markets in sync with the spirit of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**. It will also help attract more investment into this sector.

Need for:

Two-thirds of international trade in textiles is of man-made and technical textiles. This scheme has been approved so India can also contribute to the ecosystem of fabrics and garments made of MMF.

7. The James Webb Space Telescope

- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) was launched into space by the Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana, South America.

Details:

- Billed as the next-generation telescope, the **James Webb Telescope is a joint project of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), ESA (European Space Agency) and the Canadian Space Agency.**
- The James Webb Telescope is a **space-based telescope.**
 - Telescopes in space help avoid atmospheric disturbance and thermal turbulence and thus provide clear and sharp images of objects in space. They can also detect objects further away than ground-based telescopes.

- While the most giant ground-based telescopes revealed galaxies over 5 billion light-years away, the space-based Hubble space telescope has identified the farthest known galaxy located at 13.4 billion years in the past.
- The James Webb Space Telescope is designed to **detect signals in the infrared region of the electromagnetic radiation**.
 - According to the Big Bang theory, the universe has been in a constant state of expansion. As the universe expands, space stretches. As the light travels far in space, the wavelength elongates. This is called the red shift.
 - Hence the light from the earliest stars and nascent galaxies after having traversed the vast stretches of the expanding space, turn into infrared rays before reaching the Earth. Thus an infrared telescope is apt to observe the ancient, early universe, which is the primary goal of the JWST.
- The spacecraft will be **placed at 'Lagrange point 2' in space**.
 - At this point, the Earth-Sun system's gravitational forces, and the spacecraft's orbital motion would balance each other. Thus the spacecraft in this location will orbit the Sun, tagging along with the Earth in 365 days. Thus the spacecraft will be permanently behind Earth.
 - This will help shield the telescope from the sun rays and help maintain the low temperatures required in infrared-based telescopes to detect faint signals from distant stellar objects.
 - The IR telescope must be cooled to -220 degrees C or lower.

Difference between Hubble Telescope and James Webb Telescope:

- **Hubble telescope is in a very close orbit around the earth**, while the James Webb telescope will be 1.5 million kilometres away at the second Lagrange (L2) point.
- James Webb telescope will primarily look at the Universe in the infrared, while **Hubble studies it primarily at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths** (though it has some infrared capability).
- **James Webb telescope also has a much bigger mirror than Hubble**. This larger light-collecting area means that Webb can peer farther back into time than Hubble is capable of doing and will also be able to observe fainter stellar objects that Hubble cannot detect.
 - JWST will have about seven times as much light-gathering capability as Hubble.
- The James Webb Space Telescope also incorporates a **spectroscope**.
 - While a telescope can detect an object and show how it looks, the **spectroscope can analyse the light rays emanating from an object and**

reveal details about it. From the spectral image, one can understand the elemental composition, the temperature of the stellar object, etc.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

GS 2 : Polity, Governance, International Relations

1. Tussle over the election of Maharashtra Assembly Speaker

Maharashtra Governor and the incumbent government are locked in a tussle over the election of the Speaker of the Assembly. The Governor has not given his consent to the election program decided by the Cabinet.

Election of Speakers to the Assembly

- Article 178 of the Constitution provides for every Legislative Assembly to choose two members of the Assembly to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- The Constitution does not specify the process of holding these elections; that is left to the state legislatures.
- It also does not set a timeframe other than to say the elections should be held “as soon as maybe”.

Some states lay down timeframes

- In Haryana, the election of the Speaker must be held as soon as possible after the Assembly election, and the Deputy Speaker must be elected within another seven days.
- In UP, the Speaker’s election is required to be held within 15 days if the post falls vacant during the term of the Assembly.
- The date for the Speaker’s election is notified by the Governor.

A crucial case in Maharashtra

- As per Rule 6 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, “The Governor shall fix a date for the holding of the election and the Secretary shall send to every member notice of the date so fixed.”

- A former Secretary of the state Assembly said the election of the Speaker can take place only after the Governor fixes the date for it.

What are the recent amendments?

- The govt has moved a motion in the Assembly seeking amendments to Rules 6 (election of Assembly Speaker) and 7 (election of Deputy Assembly Speaker) **by voice vote instead of a secret ballot.**
- The amendments excluded the words “holding of the election” and included the words “to elect the Speaker on the recommendation of the Chief Minister” in Rule 6 of Maharashtra Assembly Rules.

What are the objections to these amendments?

- The Opposition accused the govt of running the “**most insecure government**” that does not trust its MLAs and fears there would be cross-voting in the election of the Speaker.
- It argued that the **Rules cannot be amended in the absence of the Speaker.**

What is the government’s position?

- The government has argued that the amendments are in line with the Rules that are in practice in Lok Sabha, the Upper House of the state legislature, and in the Assemblies of several others states.
- It has also been said that the amendments would put an end to horse trading.

What is the way ahead?

- The govt can explore legal options to see whether the election of the Speaker could be held without the consent of the Governor.
- However, the situation is very odd.
- While Rule 6 mandates that the Governor should fix the date for the election, the amendment says that the Governor should fix the date on the advice on the CM.

2. Election of Speaker:

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government are locked in a tussle over the **election of the Speaker** of the Assembly.

What's the issue now?

Following the Assembly elections of 2019, Nana Patole of the Congress was elected Speaker of the House. But the post fell vacant in February 2021, after Patole resigned and was subsequently appointed president of the state Congress.

- Thereafter, Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal Sitaram of the NCP conducted the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. However, the post fell vacant due to internal differences among the parties in the coalition.
- Now, the government wants to hold the election through voice vote instead of a secret ballot (As per the latest amendments). But, the governor has questioned the constitutionality of this decision.

What amendments were made to the Rules last week?

Last week, the government moved a motion in the Assembly seeking amendments to Rules 6 (election of Assembly Speaker) and 7 (election of Deputy Assembly Speaker) by voice vote instead of a secret ballot. The amendments were proposed by the Rules Committee of the legislature.

- The amendments excluded the words **“holding of the election”** and **included the words “to elect the Speaker on the recommendation of the Chief Minister”** in Rule 6 of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules.
- The amendments also replaced the provision of **election of the Speaker by “secret ballot” with “voice vote”**.

Criticisms:

The Opposition has argued that the Rules cannot be amended in the absence of the Speaker.

What is the government's position?

The government has argued that the amendments are in line with the Rules that are in practice in Lok Sabha, the Upper House of the state legislature, and in the Assemblies of a several others states.

- It has also said that the amendments would put an end to horse-trading.

- The government said it was within the powers of the legislature to amend the Rules.

Why is the approval of the Governor required to elect the Speaker of the Assembly?

The date for the Speaker's election is notified by the Governor.

As per Rule 6 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, "The Governor shall fix a date for the holding of the election and the Secretary shall send to every member notice of the date so fixed."

- Therefore, **the election of the Speaker can take place only after the Governor fixes the date for it.**

So what is the way forward now?

The situation is very odd. While Rule 6 mandates that the Governor should fix the date for the election, the amendment says that the Governor should fix the date on the advice on the CM. It is a conflict between two constitutional entities.

- Sources in the government said it would explore legal options to see whether the election of the Speaker could be held without the consent of the Governor. But the former Secretary of the House said it would be difficult to hold the election.

3. e-Shram portal

Context The Centre's e-Shram portal crossed the 15-crore mark recently.

- Uttar Pradesh sees the highest number of enrolments at 31.6 lakh.

e-Shram portal

- It is a portal through which the government aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers, such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors and domestic workers, among others.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Labour & Employment

- The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12-digit unique number, which, going ahead, will help in including them in social security schemes.
- Registration at E-shram will facilitate unorganized workers to get the benefits of various social security and employment-based schemes

Place in news: Latakia port

- An Israeli air strike hit Syria's Latakia port
- Since the outbreak of Syria's civil war in 2011, Israel has routinely carried out air strikes on its strife-torn neighbour

GS 3 : Economy, Science and Technology, Environment

4. RBI wants full ban on crypto, legal experts say it is too late:

On Christmas Eve in 2013, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued a note cautioning Indians about financial, legal and security risks of cryptocurrency. It came four years after the world's first cryptocurrency, bitcoin, was launched. Eight years later, the central bank's opposition to crypto has only become stronger.

- Earlier this month, the RBI told its board that a 'complete **ban**' on crypto was needed as partial restrictions won't work.

Background:

Private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, which are unregulated, mined through a complex process and have highly volatile prices, are under the regulatory gaze in India despite their proliferation as an asset class.

Present status of Cryptocurrencies in India:

- An inter-ministerial panel on cryptocurrency has recommended that all private cryptocurrencies, except any virtual currencies issued by state, will be prohibited in India.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also raised concerns on the cryptocurrencies traded in the market and conveyed them to the Centre.

- Back in March 2020, the Supreme Court had allowed banks and financial institutions to reinstate services related to cryptocurrencies by setting aside the RBI's 2018 circular that had prohibited them (Based on the ground of "proportionality").

What are Cryptocurrencies?

Cryptocurrencies are digital currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units of currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

Examples: Bitcoin, Ethereum etc.

Why is the RBI against the use of cryptocurrencies?

1. **Sovereign guarantee:** Cryptocurrencies pose risks to consumers. They do not have any sovereign guarantee and hence are not legal tender.
2. **Market volatility:** Their speculative nature also makes them highly volatile. For instance, the value of Bitcoin fell from USD 20,000 in December 2017 to USD 3,800 in November 2018.
3. **Risk in security:** A user loses access to their cryptocurrency if they lose their private key (unlike traditional digital banking accounts, this password cannot be reset).
4. **Malware threats:** In some cases, these private keys are stored by technical service providers (cryptocurrency exchanges or wallets), which are prone to malware or hacking.
5. Money laundering.

SC Garg Committee recommendations (2019):

1. Ban anybody who mines, hold, transact or deal with cryptocurrencies in any form.
2. It recommend a jail term of one to 10 years for exchange or trading in digital currency.
3. It proposed a monetary penalty of up to three times the loss caused to the exchequer or gains made by the cryptocurrency user whichever is higher.
4. However, the panel said that the government should keep an open mind on the potential issuance of cryptocurrencies by the Reserve Bank of India.

5. GI tag

An application seeking **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** for the **Arunachal Pradesh Apatani textile product** has been filed by a firm, Zeet Zeero Producer Company Ltd.

Apatani weave:

- The Apatani weave comes from **the Apatani tribe** living at Ziro, the headquarters of Lower Subansiri district.
- The woven fabric of this tribe is known for its geometric and zigzag patterns and for its angular designs.
- The tribe predominantly weaves shawls known as jig-jiro, and jilan or jackets called supuntarii.
- The people use leaves and plant resources for organic dyeing of the cotton yarns in their traditional ways. And **only women folk are engaged in weaving.**

About GI tag:

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.

- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.

Security:

Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.

Who is a registered proprietor of a geographical indication?

- Any association of persons, producers, organisation or authority established by or under the law can be a registered proprietor.
- Their name should be entered in the Register of Geographical Indication as registered proprietor for the Geographical Indication applied for.

How long the registration of Geographical Indication is valid?

- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
- It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.

In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by **the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from September 2003. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

6. Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021

Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has notified the Consumer Protection (Direct Selling) Rules, 2021.

Key takeaways

- These Rules shall apply to all goods and services bought or sold through direct selling.
- These Rules shall also apply to a direct selling entity which is not established in India, but offers goods or services to consumers in India.
- Existing direct selling entities need to comply of these rules within ninety days from the date of publication of these rules in the Official Gazette.
- The direct sellers as well as the direct selling entities using e-commerce platforms for sale shall comply with the requirements of the Consumer Protection (e-Commerce) Rules, 2020.
- State Government must set up a mechanism to monitor or supervise the activities of direct sellers and direct selling entities.
- Direct selling entities will be liable for the grievances arising out of the sale of goods or services by its direct sellers.

7. India has achieved its NDC target with total non-fossil based installed energy capacity

India has achieved its NDC target with total non-fossil based installed energy capacity of 157.32 GW which is 40.1% of the total installed electricity capacity.

- Indian 'Non-Conventional Energy' sector received FDI of US\$ 797.21 million during 2020-21
- Government introduced, Production Linked Incentive Scheme “**National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules**” with an outlay of Rs. 4,500 crores to support and promote manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules
- 52 **solar parks** have been sanctioned with a cumulative capacity of 37.92 GW in 14 states
- A cumulative **5.7 GW solar roof top projects** have been set up in the country
- Government of India has notified the **offshore Wind Energy Policy** to harness the potential of offshore wind energy along India's coastline
- The Ministry has notified the **wind solar hybrid policy**, providing a framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar PV hybrid projects for optimal and efficient utilization of transmission infrastructure and land, reducing the variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability
- Over 1.45 lakh **solar street lights** installed 9.03 lakh solar study lamps distributed and 2.5 MW solar power packs have been set-up as reported by State Nodal agencies (SNAs)
- Competitive Bidding guidelines for procurement of solar and wind power have been notified under section 63 of Electricity Act, 2003
- Efforts have been undertaken to strengthen and expand the domestic manufacturing eco-system. Schemes namely **PM-KUSUM, Solar Rooftop and CPSU** have a precondition of Domestic Content Requirement, directly creating a domestic demand of more than 36 GW solar PV (cells & modules)
- India has the **4th largest wind power capacity** in the world
- In order to facilitate renewable power evacuation and reshaping the grid for future requirements, the **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) projects** have been initiated
- Prime Minister announced the launch of **National Hydrogen Mission** and stated the goal to make India a global hub for **Green Hydrogen** production and export
- **One Sun-One World-One Grid (OSOWOG)**: A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the World Bank for a study on the OSOWOG initiative

- MNRE had issued orders regarding treating lockdown due to COVID-19, as Force Majeure and granting of time-extension of around 7.5 months for renewable energy projects on account of lockdown and disruptions on account of COVID-19

Prelims Practice Questions

1. 'Mission Sagar' was India's initiative to deliver Covid-19 related assistance to various countries. Which of the following countries are included in this mission?

1. Madagascar
2. Seychelles
3. Comoros
4. Mauritius

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A 1 and 3 only
B 2 and 4 only
C 1, 2 and 4
D 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer : D

Explanation

Mission Sagar

- Launched in May 2020, '**Mission Sagar**' was India's initiative to deliver **Covid-19 related assistance** to the countries in the Indian Ocean Littoral states. The countries included were **Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles**.
 - Under 'Mission Sagar', the Indian Navy has been deploying its ships to send medical and humanitarian aid to the counties in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and beyond.
 - Under the mission, the Indian Navy has delivered assistance of more than 3,000 metric tons of food aid, over 300 metric tons of liquid medical oxygen, 900 oxygen concentrators and 20 ISO containers to 15 friendly foreign countries.

- Hence, option D is correct.

2. The experiment will employ a trio of spacecraft flying in formation in the shape of equilateral triangle that has sides one million km long, with lasers shining between the craft." The experiment in the question refers to?

- a. Voyager-2
- b. New Horizons
- c. LISA Pathfinder
- d. Evolved LISA

Answer: d

Explanation:

- The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) is a mission led by the European Space Agency to detect and accurately measure gravitational waves, tiny ripples in the fabric of space-time from astronomical sources.
- LISA would be the first dedicated space-based gravitational wave detector. It aims to measure gravitational waves directly by using laser interferometry.
- The LISA concept has a constellation of three spacecraft arranged in an equilateral triangle with sides 2.5 million km long, flying along an Earth-like heliocentric orbit. The distance between the satellites is precisely monitored to detect a passing gravitational wave.
- The LISA Pathfinder was a mission that successfully demonstrated the technologies needed to build a future space-based gravitational wave observatory.

3. With reference to the Indo-Lanka Accord, consider the following statements:

1. It is popularly referred to as the Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord.
2. It was signed to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War.
3. The accord saw the placement of the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 3 only
B 1 and 2 only

C 2 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

Answer : D

Explanation

About Indo-Lanka Accord

- It is popularly referred to as the **Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord**, after its architects Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene. It was **signed in 1987**. Hence, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It was signed on the pretext of the **Civil War in Sri Lanka** (between Tamils and Sinhala community). Hence, **statement 2 is correct**.
 - The accord sought to balance India's **strategic interests**, interest of **people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka** and **Tamil minority rights** in Sri Lanka.
- The accord saw the placement of the **Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF)** in Sri Lanka to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War. Hence, **statement 3 is correct**.
- The accord also resulted in the enactment of the **thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka** and the **Provincial Councils Act of 1987**.

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.
2. The act is enforced by the Ministry of Finance.

Options:

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act is a consolidating act whose scope is to regulate the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign

hospitality by certain individuals or associations or companies and to prohibit acceptance and utilisation of foreign contribution or foreign hospitality for any activities detrimental to the national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

- Under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), registration is mandatory for any NGO or association to receive foreign funds or donations.
- The act is enforced by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Adaptation Fund finances climate change adaptation and resilience activities in developing countries.
2. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) provides trustee services to the Adaptation Fund on an interim basis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : A

Explanation

- **The Adaptation Fund under Kyoto Protocol** aims to finance concrete projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries that are Parties to the **Kyoto Protocol** to adapt to climate change. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **World Bank serves as the interim trustee** of the **Adaptation Fund** by invitation of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.
 - On behalf of the Fund, the World Bank performs two core functions: it sells the Certified Emission Reduction certificates that help support the fund and manages the Adaptation Fund trust fund. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

6. Sabar tribe can be mainly found in

1. Madhya Pradesh

2. Odisha
3. West Bengal

Options:

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 3 only

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Sabar people (also Shabar and Saora) are one of the Adivasi of the Munda ethnic group who live mainly in Odisha and West Bengal.

Mains Practice Questions

1. Examine the concept of cooperative farming, in light of problem of land fragmentation, in promoting the socio-economic welfare of farmers. (250 words)

Approach

- Write in brief about the concept of cooperative farming.
- Just give current status and challenges of land fragmentation.
- Examine how cooperative farming can be beneficial and enumerate its challenges and the solutions.
- Emphasize on the future need of the land consolidation and cooperative farming.

2. How are integrated steel plants different from mini steel plants? What problems does the industry face? What recent developments have led to a rise in the production capacity? (250 words)

Approach

- Write what are the integrated and mini steel plants in the introduction part.
- Differentiate between the two.
- Enumerate the problems and recent developments taken to increase the productivity.