

Natural Farming

❖ Context

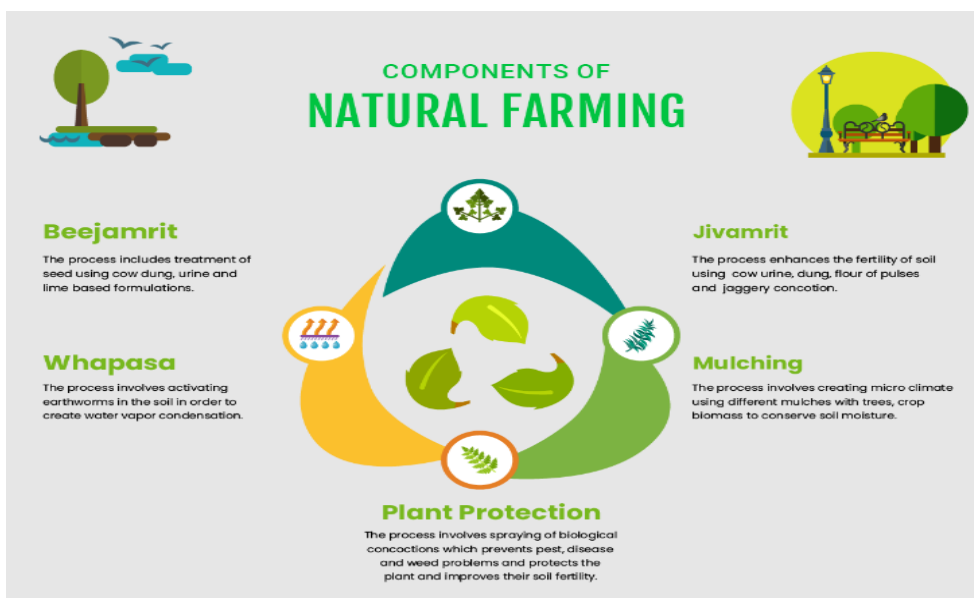
- The Gujarat Governor launched a PhD programme in Natural Agriculture by Gujarat University at the **Indian Institute of Sustainability (IIS)**.



❖ What is Natural Farming?

- **Chemical-free** and **livestock based farming** system that integrates crops, trees and livestock and is grounded in **agro-ecology**.

❖ Components of Natural Farming



- **Beejamrit** - Includes treatment of seed using cow dung, urine and lime based formulations. It is a fermented microbial solution.
- **Jivamrit** - Enhances the fertility of soil using cow urine, dung, flour of pulses and jaggery concoction. It acts as a **biostimulant** by promoting the activity of microorganisms and population of native earthworms.
- **Mulching** - Involves creating a micro climate using different mulches with trees, and crop biomass to conserve soil moisture. There are two type of mulches :
 - **Crop Residue Mulch** :
 - This comprises any dried vegetation, farm stubble, such as dried biomass waste etc.
 - It protects soil against severe sunlight, cold, rain etc and seeds from birds, insects & animals.

○ Live Mulch :

- It is practised by developing multi-cropping/intercropping patterns of short duration crops of **monocotyledons** and **dicotyledons** in the rows of a main crop to reduce the demand of a particular type of plant nutrient.
- Monocots, like wheat and rice, supply nutrients such as potash, phosphate and sulphur, while dicots such as pulses are nitrogen-fixing plants.
- **Whapasa** : Involves activating earthworms in the soil in order to create water vapour condensation.
- **Plant Protection** : It involves spraying of **biological concoctions** which prevent pest, disease and weed problems and protects the plant and improves their soil fertility.
 - **Neemastra** - Mixture of water, cow dung, urine and neem leaves.
 - **Brahmastra** - Mixture of cow urine, neem leaves, Karanj leaves, custard apple leaves and datura leaves.
 - **Agniastra** - Mixture of cow urine, neem leaves, tobacco powder, green chilli, garlic paste and turmeric powder.
 - **Dashaparni Ark or Kashaya** : As a substitute for Neemastra, Brahmastra, and Agniastra.
 - Mixture of 10 types of leaves with urine, dung, turmeric powder, tobacco powder, chilli pulp, garlic paste, ginger paste, Asafoetida.
 - **Fungicide** - Prepared with cow milk & curd, found to be very effective in controlling the fungus.

Article 130 and 348

❖ Context

- TN Chief Minister reiterated the **State's request for establishing a Regional Bench of the Supreme Court** in Chennai and allowing **Tamil to be used in the Madras High Court** as one of its official languages.

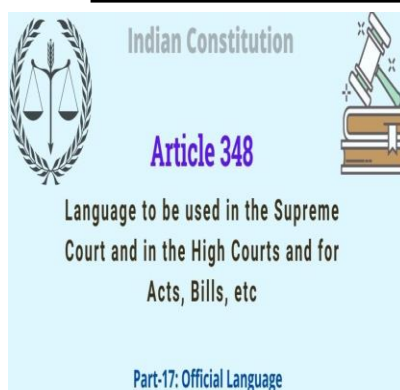


❖ Article 130 Provision - Seat of the SC



- The Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint.

❖ Article 348 - Languages in Supreme Court and High Courts



- Until Parliament, by law otherwise provides, **all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court, shall be in the English language**.
- The **Governor** of a State may, with the previous **consent of the President**, authorise the use of the Hindi language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings in the High Court

Face to Face Centres



06 September, 2022

Eastern Chalukyas

❖ Context

- The public had a glimpse of the seven gold coins, inscriptions, artefacts belonging to the period of Eastern Chalukyas, at the RSR Museum in Rajamahendravaram.



❖ Key Highlights

- The bigger coin of the seven gold coins contains the image of ‘**varaha**’ (boar), an **official symbol of the Eastern Chalukyas**.
- It also contains some text in early Telugu script. This past August, the city also celebrated the completion of one thousand years of the coronation of Raja Raja Narendra. **Rajaraja Narendra** (1019 – 1061 AD), son of Vimaladitya Chalukya, was the Eastern Chalukya king who **established the city Rajamahendravaram** (Rajahmundry).
- Amangai Devi, daughter of Rajendra Chola I, married Rajaraja Narendra. **Their son, Rajendra Chalukya, also called Kulottunga Chola I, was the 1st king of Chalukya Cholas.** The Chalukya Cholas were the Later Cholas (1070-1279) who ruled till the demise of the Chola empire.

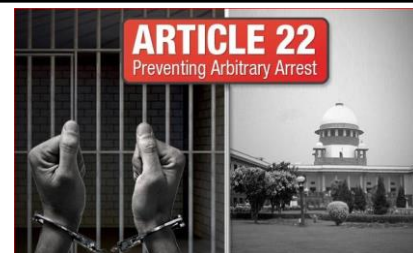
❖ About the Eastern Chalukyas

- Eastern Chalukyas, also known as the **Chalukyas of Vengi**, were a dynasty that ruled parts of South India between the **7th & 12th centuries**. The Badami ruler **Pulakeshin II** (610–642 CE) conquered the Vengi region in eastern Deccan.
- He appointed his brother **Kubja Vishnuvardhana** the governor of this newly acquired territory in 624 A.D.
- Vishnuvardhana's viceroyalty subsequently developed into an independent kingdom, after Pulakeshin died fighting the Pallavas in the **Battle of Vatapi (642 AD)**.
- The Eastern Chalukyas ruled the Vengi region until 1130 CE. After that, they ruled as **feudatories of the Cholas until 1189 CE**.
- The 5 centuries of the Eastern Chalukya rule also saw the efflorescence of **Telugu culture**, literature, poetry and art.
- The more powerful Cholas and Western Chalukyas fought many wars over the control of the strategic Vengi country.

Preventive Detention

❖ Context

- Preventive detentions in 2021 saw a rise of over **23.7%** compared to the year before, with over 1.1 lakh people being placed under preventive detention, according to the latest crime statistics released by the **National Crime Records Bureau(NCRB)**.



❖ Key Highlights

- The number of persons placed under detention has been increasing steadily since 2017 — to over 98,700 in 2018 and over 1.06 lakh in 2019 — before dipping to 89,405 in 2020. Data pertaining to 2021 showed that 1,10,683 persons were placed under preventive detention.

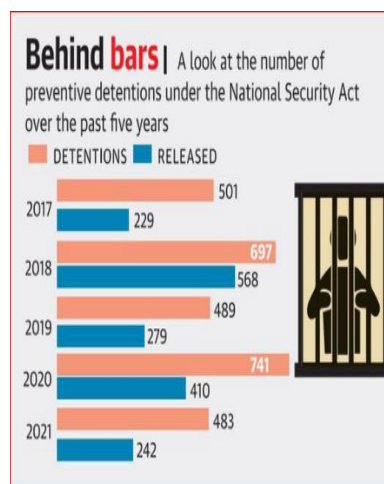
Preventive Detention

- Preventive detention is an action taken on grounds of suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned.
- Preventive detention can however be made only on four grounds. The grounds for Preventive detention are—
- security of the state,
- maintenance of public order,
- maintenance of supplies and essential services and defence,
- foreign affair.

- While the number of persons placed under preventive detention has seen an increase in 2021, the NCRB data showed that the number of people arrested in such a manner under the **National Security Act** had dipped significantly compared to the year before.
- Preventive detentions under the NSA peaked in 2020 at 741. This number dropped to 483 in 2021.

❖ Extensive Use Of Provision

- District magistrates and the police often make preventive detentions to control law and order in emerging communal clashes or clashes between any two communities — even when it might not always lead to public disorder.
- According to **Section 151** of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the police are empowered to make preventive arrests if they believe they must do so to prevent the commission of “any cognisable offence”.
- This detention can be extended beyond **24 hours** if required “under any other provisions of this Code or of any other law”.
- Once placed under preventive detention, it often takes more than a year for the challenge to the detention order to be decided by the courts concerned.



Dark Sky Reserve

❖ Context

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** has announced the setting up of India’s first Dark Sky Reserve in Hanle, Ladakh.

❖ Key Highlights

- Hanle, which is about 4,500 metres above sea level, hosts telescopes and is regarded as one of the world’s most optimal sites for astronomical observations.



Face to Face Centres

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- However, ensuring that the site remains well-suited for astronomy implies keeping the night-sky pristine, or ensuring minimal interference to the telescopes from artificial light sources such as electric lights and vehicular lights from the ground.
- A Dark Sky Reserve is a designation given to a place that has policies in place to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial light interference.
- The International Dark Sky Association is a U.S.-based non-profit that designates places as International Dark Sky Places, Parks, Sanctuaries and Reserves, depending on the criteria they meet. Several such reserves exist around the world but none so far in India.

❖ Ideal Conditions

- The Indian Astronomical Observatory, the high-altitude station of IIA, is situated to the north of Western Himalayas, at an altitude of 4,500 metres above mean sea level.
- Located atop Mt. Saraswati in the Nilamkhul Plain in the **Hanle Valley of Changthang**, it is a dry, cold desert with sparse human population & has the Hanle monastery as its nearest neighbour.
- The cloudless skies and low atmospheric water vapour make it one of the best sites in the world for optical, infrared, sub-millimetre, and millimetre wavelengths.

IMF Bailout Package for Sri Lanka

❖ Context

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** approved a preliminary agreement with Sri Lanka on a four-year, **USD 2.9 billion** bailout package which is aimed at restoring economic stability and debt sustainability for the crisis-ridden south Asian nation.



❖ Key Highlights

- This will boost government revenue, encourage fiscal consolidation, introduce new pricing for fuel and electricity, hike social spending, bolster central bank autonomy, and rebuild depleted foreign reserves.
- The IMF package is to be paid in tranches over the next four years. The package must be approved by the IMF's board of directors.
- **Significance:** It can boost the receiving country's credit ratings, and the confidence of international creditors and investors who may then chip in to provide bridge financing to close the gaps between the tranches.

The IMF in History



❖ About IMF

IMF Facts	
	1944 IMF is established
	190 Member countries
	150 Nationalities among staff
	24 Executive Directors representing 190 countries
IMF Lending Facts	
	\$1 trillion Amount available for lending
	34 Current lending arrangements
	76 Recipient countries of emergency pandemic financing
	\$303 million For technical advice, training and learning

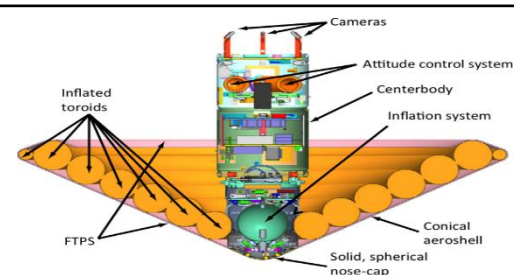
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is an agency of the United Nations, and an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of **190 countries**.

- It was formed in 1944, started on 27 December 1945, at the **Bretton Woods Conference**.
- **Functions:** It works to foster global growth and economic stability by providing policy advice and financing the members by working with developing countries to help them achieve macroeconomic stability and reduce poverty.
- It also acts as a source of counsel and technical assistance.

Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator

❖ Context

- Recently **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully demonstrated a new technology with **Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD)**.



❖ Key Highlights

- Designed and developed by ISRO's **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**, IAD is a game-changer with multiple applications for future missions including to Mars and Venus.
- The IAD was successfully test flown in a '**Rohini**' sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station.
- Rohini sounding rockets are routinely used for flight demonstration of new technologies being developed by ISRO as well as by scientists from India and abroad.

- The IAD was initially folded and kept inside the payload bay of the rocket.
- At **around 84 km altitude**, the IAD was inflated and it descended through the atmosphere with the payload part of a sounding rocket.
- The IAD has systematically reduced the velocity of the payload through aerodynamic drag and followed the predicted trajectory.
- **Significance:** This demonstration opens a gateway for cost-effective spent stage recovery using the Inflatable Aerodynamics Decelerator technology & this IAD technology can also be used in ISRO's future missions to Venus and Mars.

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Rashtriya Puraskar Portal



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has launched the portal.

❖ Key Highlights

- A common portal has been developed so as to bring together all the Awards of the various Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the Government of India under one platform. Citizens and organisations can submit their nominations using the portal.

G2G Wheat Export



❖ Context

- **Ethiopia, Israel, Bangladesh, UAE and Bhutan** are amongst the recipients of the 3.5 lakh tonnes of wheat exported by India on a government-to-government (G2G) basis since a ban on its exports was imposed in May 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- Export of wheat flour was banned as there was a 208 % increase in exports over the April-August 2022 period.
- India's decision to ban export of wheat had led to a lot of global flak at WTO as several developed nations blamed it for a further rise in global prices of the foodgrain.
- In its defence, **India** had argued that its **wheat exports were less than 1 % of world trade** and hence the country's curbs should not affect the global markets.
- In 2021-22, India's wheat exports were at 7.85 million tonnes.

Trans Credit



❖ Context

- The Supreme Court allows the **Goods & Services Tax (GST)** Network to open a special window to file for trans credit from October 1 for 60 days.

❖ Key Highlights

- Trans credit or Transitional credit refers to use of **tax credit accumulated up to June 30, 2017**, that is, the last day of erstwhile central excise & service tax regime.
- Post-introduction of GST, special provision was made for credit accumulated under VAT, excise duty, or service tax to be transited to GST.
- However, there were some conditions, such as the credit will be available only if returns for the last six months were filed in the previous regime (VAT, excise, and service tax returns had been filed).

Defence Minister's 5-day Visit to Mongolia & Japan



❖ Context

- Defence Minister has embarked on a five day visit to Mongolia and Japan.

❖ Key Highlights

- This is the first ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Mongolia.
- It will further consolidate the defence cooperation & strategic partnership between the two countries.
- India and Mongolia share a strategic partnership & defence is a key pillar of it.
- The bilateral defence engagements with Mongolia have been expanding over a period of time to include wide ranging contacts between the two countries including **Joint Working Group meeting**, military to military exchanges, high level visits, capacity building and training programmes and bilateral exercises.
- Joint India-Mongolia military exercise '**Nomadic Elephant**' is held annually.

❖ About Mongolia

- **Mongolia** is a landlocked country in East Asia, bordered by Russia to the north and China to the south.
- It covers an area of **1,564,116** square kilometres (603,909 square miles), with a population of just 3.3 million, making it the **world's most sparsely** populated sovereign nation.
- Mongolia is the world's largest landlocked country that does not border a closed sea, and much of its area is covered by grassy steppe, with mountains to the north and west and the Gobi Desert to the south.
- **Ulaanbaatar**, the capital and largest city, is home to roughly half of the country's population.

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