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26 April, 2024

Redistribution of Private Property

Context: *The Supreme Court started hearing a case on whether the government can take and redistribute privately owned properties if they're considered vital for the community.*

➢ **Background:**
- The case revolves around whether the government can acquire and redistribute privately owned properties under Article 39(b) of the Constitution.
- Article 39(b) falls under Part IV of the Constitution, known as Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

➢ **Important Minority Opinion:**
- Justice Krishna Iyer argued that privately owned resources should be considered as material resources of the community.
- His interpretation gained significance and was later affirmed by the Supreme Court in subsequent cases.

➢ **Case Overview - Cessed Properties Dispute:**
- The dispute arose from a challenge to the 1986 amendment to the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Act (MHADA) by owners of 'cessed' properties in Mumbai.
- The amendment allowed for the acquisition of properties under Article 39(b) to transfer them to needy persons.

➢ **Legal Journey:**
- The Bombay High Court upheld the legislation, citing Article 31C of the Constitution.
- The case was then appealed to the Supreme Court in 1992, which referred it to a larger Bench for reconsideration.
- In 2002, a seven-judge Bench expressed reservations about the broad interpretation of Article 39(b) and referred the matter to a nine-judge Bench.

➢ **Article 39:**
- **Right to Livelihood:** Ensure all citizens, regardless of gender, have access to adequate means of livelihood.
- **Distribution of Resources:** Ensure that ownership and control of community resources benefit the common good.
- **Wealth Distribution:** Prevent the economic system from concentrating wealth and means of production to the detriment of society.
- **Equal Pay:** Ensure equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- **Worker Protection:** Protect the health and strength of workers, and prevent economic circumstances from forcing citizens into unsuitable jobs.
- **Child Welfare:** Provide opportunities and facilities for children to grow up in healthy conditions with freedom and dignity, protecting them from exploitation and abandonment.

The State of the Climate in Asia 2023

Context: *Two reports reveal developed countries' failure to counter global climate impacts, particularly in Asia, labeled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as the world's 'disaster capital'.*

➢ **Climate Impact in Asia:**
- In 2023, Asia experienced the highest number of disasters globally, with floods and storms causing the most casualties and economic losses.
- Heatwaves intensified, particularly in eastern and northern India, with temperatures rising to record levels.

➢ **Sea Level Rise and Temperature Trends:**
- Sea level rise in the Bay of Bengal exceeded the global average by nearly 30%.
- Eastern and northern India experienced the highest temperature increase in the region.

➢ **Accelerating Climate Trends:**
- Long-term warming trends are accelerating, leading to more severe heatwaves, glacier melting, and threats to water security.
- Sea surface temperatures and ocean heat have reached record highs, exacerbating climate impacts.

➢ **Impacts on Glaciers and High Mountain Asia:**
- Glaciers in the High Mountain Asia region, including the Tibetan Plateau, are rapidly retreating due to record-breaking temperatures and dry conditions.
- Climate change played a role in triggering glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), leading to fatalities in regions like Sikkim and northern West Bengal.

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- **Ocean Warming and Marine Heatwaves:**
  - Rising greenhouse gas emissions have led to significant ocean warming, contributing to global sea-level rise and altering ocean currents.
  - Marine heatwaves, particularly in the Arctic Ocean, Eastern Arabian Sea, and Northern Pacific, have lasted for several months, impacting marine ecosystems.
- **Precipitation Patterns and Flood Events:**
  - Precipitation levels were below normal across many parts of Asia, leading to drought conditions.
  - Despite lower overall precipitation, floods and storms were the leading causes of fatalities and economic losses in 2023, affecting millions of people.
- **Regional Impacts and Heatwave Fatalities:**
  - India experienced severe heatwaves in April and June, resulting in numerous heatstroke fatalities.
  - Certain regions of India, especially West Bengal and northern states, saw a significant rise in average temperatures compared to the 1991-2021 average.
  - Sea level rise in the Bay of Bengal exceeded the global average, posing risks to coastal areas like the Sundarbans in West Bengal.

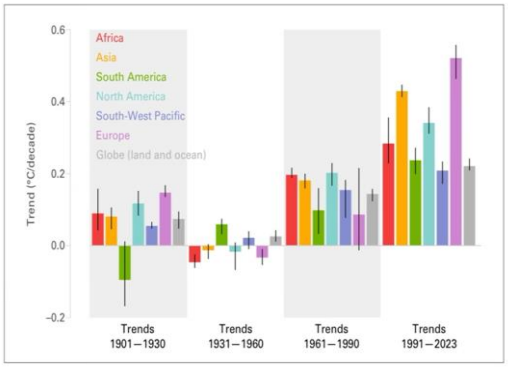

Figure 4. Trends in mean surface air temperature for the six WMO regions and the global mean (°C) over four sub-periods using the six datasets. The coloured bars indicate the trend in the mean of the datasets. The black vertical lines indicate the range between the largest and the smallest trends in the individual datasets.

Sympathetic Solar Flares

Context: *A rare celestial event occurred as four solar flares erupted simultaneously, potentially signalling the onset of the Sun's dynamic 11-year cycle.*

- **Sympathetic Solar Flares:**
  - NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory captured the rare sight of simultaneous sympathetic solar flares in different regions of the Sun.
  - The event revealed complex magnetic interactions caused by eruptions originating from three sunspots and a large magnetic filament.
- **Characteristics of the Event:**
  - The four-part eruption began around 1 am EDT on April 23, covering around a third of the solar surface facing Earth.
  - Despite being separated by vast distances, the eruption sites were connected by massive magnetic field loops above the solar surface.
- **Explanation of Sympathetic Flares:**
  - Sympathetic flares occur due to multiple eruptions across the Sun's magnetic field, with one eruption triggering others.
  - This phenomenon leads to coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and massive bursts of plasma.
- **Significance and Solar Cycle:**
  - Such solar activity suggests the Sun is nearing the peak of its 11-year solar cycle, known as solar maximum.
  - Increased solar events like flares and CMEs mark this peak, offering insight into the Sun's complex life cycle.
  - **Rare Nature of the Event:** The occurrence of four simultaneous sympathetic flares is uncommon, making this event "super-sympathetic"..
- **Potential Impacts on Earth:**
  - If directed towards Earth, sympathetic flares have the potential to disrupt power grids, telecommunication networks, and satellites.
  - Exposure to dangerous radiation for astronauts is also a concern.
  - Minor geomagnetic storms could result in auroras visible at lower latitudes around April 25 and April 26.

News in Between the Lines

Indian Historical Records Commission

भारतीय ऐतिहासिक अभिलेख आयोग
Indian Historical Records Commission
यत्र इतिहासं भविष्यायां संरक्षित:

Recently, Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) adopted a new logo and motto, with the winning design submitted by Shaurya Pratap Singh from Delhi.

About Indian Historical Records Commission:

- The Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC) was **established in 1919 by the Government of India** to advise on the **management of records** and their **use for historical research.**
- It is an all-India forum of **record creators, custodians and users.**
- Its responsibilities include making recommendations on the treatment of archives for **historical study** and the **scale and plan for cataloguing**, **calendaring** and reprinting documents.
- It is **headed by the Union Minister of Culture and the National Archives of India** in New Delhi is its secretariat.

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	▪ The National Archives of India (NAI) is a **repository of the Government of India's non-current records,** which are held in trust for the use of scholars and administrators. ▪ The NAI's holdings date back to 1748 and include records in four categories: public records, o**riental records, manuscripts and private papers**. ▪ The records are in various languages, including **English**, **Arabic**, **Hindi**, **Persian**, **Sanskrit** and **Urdu** and are made from materials such as **paper**, **palm leaf**, **birch bark**, and parchment.
Dongria Kondh Tribe 	*Recently, Dongria Kondh tribe in Odisha gathered in Parsili village, prioritizing clearing their names from Naxal cases linked to opposing a bauxite mining plan in Niyamgiri Hills before considering participation in polls.* **About Dongria Kondh Tribe:** ▪ The Dongria Kondh are a **particularly vulnerable tribal group** (PVTG) from the Rayagada and **Kalahandi districts of Odisha.** ▪ They are a **primitive subgroup of the Kondhs** of the **Munda ethnic group** who live in the **Niyamgiri hills** of Odisha. ▪ They are **known for their traditional handloom sarees**, the Dongria saree. ▪ They **worship Niyam Raja**, the supreme god of the Niyamgiri forest and believe that they are his royal descendants. ▪ The Dongria Kondh **practice horticulture and shifting cultivation**. ▪ The people of Niyamgiri **speak Kui language**, which is **spoken but not written**, mainly among the Kondh community. ▪ They **celebrate the popular Podha festival** in February-March with new clothes and generous quantities of **Salap Rasa,** a drink prepared from the juice drawn from the **Salap tree.** ▪ The Dongria Kondh have been at the **center of a dispute over mining rights** in the area. For example**, Vedanta Resources threatened to extract the estimated $2 billion worth of bauxite** that lies under the surface of the hills and planned to create an open-cast mine that would have violated Niyam Dongar, disrupted its rivers and spelt the end of the Dongria Kondh as a distinct people.
Polypropylene granules 	**About Polypropylene granules:** ▪ Polypropylene (PP) granules are a **type of thermoplastic polymer** derived from propylene monomers. ▪ They are commonly **used in various industries for manufacturing a wide range of products** due to their versatile properties. ▪ They possess properties such as high stiffness, good chemical resistance and excellent heat resistance. ▪ They are used in the **production of packaging materials**, **automotive parts**, **textiles**, **medical devices** and consumer goods. ▪ They are **produced through polymerization of propylene monomers** using catalysts under controlled conditions. ▪ The polymerization **process can occur in gas,** solution or solid-phase reactors, followed by granulation to produce uniform pellets. ▪ Polypropylene is considered a recyclable plastic, and efforts are made to recycle PP granules to minimize environmental impact. ▪ Trade of PP granules occurs globally, with major producers including **China**, the **United States** and the **European Union.**
Mackerel Fish 	**About Mackerel Fish:** ▪ Mackerel is a type of oily fish known for its **high nutritional content.** ▪ It is **rich in polyunsaturated omega-3 fatty acids**, **proteins**, **vitamins (A, D, E)** and **micronutrients (magnesium, selenium, iodine).** ▪ Consumption of mackerel is associated with **reducing the risk of cardiovascular** diseases, **metabolic syndrome** and other health conditions. ▪ Omega-3 fatty acids in mackerel are known for their **anti-inflammatory properties** and **support brain health**. ▪ This fish typically occurs during seasons of plankton abundance, ensuring higher fat content and flavor. ▪ Sustainable fishing methods, such as seine fishing, are employed to minimize bycatch and reduce environmental impact. ▪ Mackerel lends itself to a variety of culinary preparations, including **grilling**, **baking**, **smoking**, and **pickling**.

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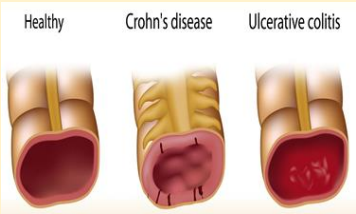
Inflammatory Bowel Disease



Recently, doctors have become increasingly concerned about the rising incidence of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) worldwide.

About the Inflammatory Bowel Disease:

- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a **chronic inflammatory condition** that **affects the gastrointestinal (GI) tract.**
- It **includes two conditions, Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC),** which are characterized by chronic inflammation of the GI tract.
- Factors contributing to the development or worsening of IBD include **diet, age, family history, cigarette smoking and certain medications.**
- Symptoms include **loose motions**, **pain in the abdomen** and **blood in the stool** that continue for more than two weeks.
- To reduce the risk of developing IBD, adopt a lifestyle that includes avoiding processed foods, eating a **Mediterranean-style diet rich** in **fruits** and **vegetables**, **getting enough sleep**, limiting exposure to antibiotics, abstaining from smoking and managing stress and anxiety.

Place in News

Japan

Recently, the 10th Round of India-Japan Consultations on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Export Control was held in Tokyo, Japan.

Japan (Capital: Tokyo)

Location: Japan is an island country in East Asia.

Boundaries:

- Japan is surrounded by the **Pacific Ocean** (East), the **Sea of Japan** (West), **the Sea of Okhotsk** (North) and **the East China Sea** (Southwest).
- It shares maritime borders with **China**, **North Korea**, **South Korea**, the **Philippines**, **Russia**, the **Northern Mariana Islands** and **Taiwan**.

Physical Features:

- The country's five main islands, from north to south, are **Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu** and **Okinawa.**
- The country is **part of the Ring of Fire** and is prone to earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.**Mount Fuji**, or **Fuji-san**, is the tallest and largest active volcano in Japan

POINTS TO PONDER

- Which country recently hosted the 'Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes' Conference along with the Tiger Conservation Coalition?
  – Bhutan (attended by India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand)
- Which ministry oversees the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006? **– Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- When was the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) established?
  – in 1997 by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997
- Which Constitutional Amendment Act inserted Article 244(A) into the Indian Constitution?
  – 22nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1969
- Which organization was launched in 2016 by the European Union, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP)? **– Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC)**

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