

26 June, 2024

ICC issues warrants against Russian Leaders

Context: The ICC issued arrest warrants for former Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov for "alleged international crimes" related to the Ukraine war.

➤ ICC Charges

- Charges: "Directing attacks at civilian objects" and "causing excessive incidental harm to civilians or damage to civilian objects".
- Individual Responsibility: The ICC believes Sergei Shoigu and Valery Gerasimov bear criminal responsibility for committing and/or ordering these acts.
- Missile Strikes: They are allegedly responsible for missile strikes against Ukraine's electric infrastructure, involving multiple acts against civilians.

➤ Prosecution of Russia by ICC

- Russia considers any ICC decision "null and void" as it is not an ICC member.
- Putin and the two officials risk arrest when traveling to ICC member states.
- This is the first ICC arrest warrant against a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

➤ Ukraine and ICC Jurisdiction

- Ukraine's Status: Not a party to the Rome Statute.
- Acceptance of Jurisdiction: Ukraine has accepted ICC's jurisdiction twice for crimes under the Rome Statute on its territory, according to Article 12(3).
- Article 12(3): Allows non-member states to accept ICC jurisdiction by making a declaration to the Registrar and cooperating without delay.

➤ What is ICC?

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established by the Rome Statute in 1998 to investigate, prosecute, and try individuals for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.
- The court began operations in 2003 and is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.
- The ICC has 123 member nations; notable non-members include the US, China, Russia, and India.
- The ICC is funded by contributions from States Parties and voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations, and other entities.
- The court is composed of 18 judges, each from a different member country, elected to nonrenewable nine-year terms.
- The Presidency consists of three judges (the President and two Vice-Presidents) elected from among the judges.

- The ICC has three judicial divisions: the Pre-Trial Division, the Trial Division, and the Appeals Division.
- The Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) is responsible for receiving referrals, conducting investigations, and prosecuting cases.
- The Registry provides administrative and operational support to the Chambers and the OTP.
- The ICC prosecutes individuals rather than states.
- It can hear a case if the country where the offense was committed is a party to the Rome Statute or if the perpetrator's country of origin is a party to the Rome Statute.
- The ICC may only exercise its jurisdiction if the national court is unable or unwilling to do so.
- The ICC only covers offenses committed after July 1, 2002.
- Although not a United Nations (UN) organization, the ICC has a cooperation agreement with the UN.
- The UN Security Council can refer situations to the ICC, granting it jurisdiction when it would otherwise lack it.

Prospects of Heat and Water Stress

Context: Heat and water stress could cause up to a 14 percent decline in global food production by 2050, exacerbating food insecurity.

➤ Impact of Heat and Water Stress on Food Production by 2050:

- Heat and water stress can lead to a 6-14 percent global food production decline by 2050.
- This decline could increase the number of people with severe food insecurity by up to 1.36 billion compared to 2020.
- China and ASEAN countries might shift from being net food exporters to food importers by 2050.

➤ Findings from the Global Report on Food Crisis:

- The report "Global impacts of heat and water stress on food production and severe food insecurity" was published on June 22, 2024, in the journal Scientific Reports of Nature.
- It showed a decreasing trend in food production as a percentage reduction in 2050 from 2020 for different climate change scenarios.
- Decrease in agricultural output causes a reduction in global food production, increasing the number of people with severe food insecurity.

➤ Projected Food Production Declines:

- India: Food production projected to fall by 16.1 percent in 2050 due to water and heat stress.
- China: Projected decline of 22.4 percent.
- United States: Projected decline of 12.6 percent.
- Africa: Projected decline of 8.2-11.8 percent.
- Australia: Projected decline of 14.7 percent.
- Central America: Projected decline of 19.4 percent in some parts.

Face to Face Centres



26 June, 2024

➤ **Severe Food Insecurity Projections:**

- The number of additional people with severe food insecurity by 2050, relative to 2020, could increase between 556 million and 1.36 billion.
- In 2023, nearly 282 million people faced high levels of acute food insecurity in 59 countries, with extreme weather being the second-most significant factor driving the food crisis.
- For four consecutive years, almost 22 percent of people assessed faced acute food insecurity, significantly exceeding pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Weather extremes were the main driver for 18 countries, with over 72 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity.

➤ **Temperature Records and Climate Trends:**

- May 2024 was the warmest May on record globally for land and ocean surfaces combined, following 11 consecutive months of record-breaking temperatures.
- June 2024 is set to continue this streak of record-breaking temperatures, potentially breaking its temperature records for two consecutive years.

➤ **Food Prices and Trade Flows:**

- The research showed substantial increases in food prices, especially in the most extreme warming scenario and regions with high water stress.
- Increased trade in agricultural commodities from low to high water stress countries and regions was observed, driven by relative regional food price changes.

Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

Context: With the Opposition's increased strength in the Lok Sabha, its members are hopeful of securing the post of Deputy Speaker.

➤ **Opposition's Hopes for Deputy Speaker Post:**

- The Opposition's increased strength in the Lok Sabha has led its members to hope for securing the post of Deputy Speaker.
- There was no Deputy Speaker for the entire duration of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24).

- M Thambi Durai of the AIADMK, a BJP ally at the time, was Deputy Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19).

- The Opposition held the post of Deputy Speaker continuously from 1990 through 2014.

➤ **Constitutional Provisions for Deputy Speaker:**

- Article 95(1) states the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker if the post is vacant and has the same general powers when presiding over the House.
- Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be appointed "as soon as may be" according to Article 93.
- Article 178 contains similar provisions for Speakers and Deputy Speakers in state Assemblies.
- The Constitution does not specify a timeframe for these appointments, allowing delays.

➤ **Rules for Election of Deputy Speaker:**

- Generally, the Speaker is elected in the first session of the new House, while the Deputy Speaker is usually elected in the second session.
- In the Lok Sabha, the election of the Deputy Speaker is governed by Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, with the date set by the Speaker.
- The Deputy Speaker remains in office until the dissolution of the House unless they cease to be a member, resign, or are removed by a House resolution.

➤ **Instances of Deputy Speaker Filling in for Speaker:**

- Deputy Speaker M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar filled in after Speaker G V Mavalankar's death in 1956.
- Deputy Speaker P M Sayeed acted as Speaker after Speaker G M C Balayogi's death in 2002 until Manohar Joshi was elected.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

RoDTEP Scheme



Recently, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) urged the Finance Ministry to ensure fiscal austerity doesn't impede zero rating for exports, highlighting the need to increase the budget for the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme.

About Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products Scheme:

- The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme is a **government initiative that refunds taxes and duties on exported products**.
- The scheme was **introduced in January 2021 to replace the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)** and is intended to help exporters compete internationally, create jobs and contribute to economic growth.
- This scheme is based on the principle that taxes and duties should not be exported.
- It ensures that exporters receive refunds for taxes and duties that were previously non-recoverable, such as those that are not credited, remitted or refunded in any other way.
- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)** issues the rebate as a transferable electronic scrip.
- The scheme is notified by the Department of Commerce and is based on the classification of products at the **8-digit tariff heading level**.

Face to Face Centres

26 June, 2024

	- As of March 2024, the scheme has a budget of ₹15,070 Crore and has supported more than 10,500 export items, including those in the chemical, pharmaceuticals, and iron and steel sectors. - This scheme was extended until September 30, 2024 and the benefit was also extended to include exports of manufactured products by Advance Authorization (AA) holders and Export Oriented Units (EOU).
Cotton 	According to the Ministry of Textiles, cotton consumption by the textile industry in the current marketing season (October 2023 to September 2024) is one of the highest this decade. About Cotton: - Cotton, is a semi-xerophyte and crucial commercial crop in India, contributing to approximately 25% of global cotton production. - It is often referred to as "White-Gold" due to its economic importance in the country. - Around 67% of India's cotton is cultivated in rain-fed areas, while 33% is grown in irrigated regions. - It is grown on a variety of soils ranging from well drained deep alluvial soils to black clayey soils. - India is the only country cultivating all four species of cotton: Gossypium arboreum, G. herbaceum, G. barbadense and G. hirsutum. - Ten major cotton-growing states are categorized into three agro-ecological zones: Northern Zone (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan), Central Zone (Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh) and Southern Zone (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu). Cottonseed oil ranks as the third-largest domestically-produced vegetable oil in India, following mustard and soybean. - Cottonseed oil is used for cooking and the leftover cottonseed cake serves as a vital feed ingredient for livestock and poultry.
Potassium Cyanide 	<i>Potassium Cyanide can cause sudden death by inhibiting cellular respiration.</i> About the Potassium Cyanide: - Potassium cyanide (KCN) is a highly toxic chemical compound. - It appears as a white crystalline solid that is soluble in water, forming a clear, colorless solution. - It is known for its extreme toxicity, primarily due to its ability to interfere with cellular respiration by inhibiting the enzyme cytochrome c oxidase in mitochondria. - It causes death by gradually arresting the supply of oxygen to the body's cells. - It forms complexes with haemoglobin and cytochrome, which are crucial for cellular respiration. - When consumed, potassium cyanide splits into potassium and cyanide ions. Cyanide ions have a higher affinity for the ferrous ion in haemoglobin, blocking the site meant for oxygen. - This binding is irreversible and prevents the transfer of oxygen, leading to cellular asphyxiation. - The initial symptoms of cyanide poisoning include giddiness, headache and a bluish tinge of the skin.
Place in News Kazakhstan	Recently, the Prime Minister of India and President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev have reiterated their commitment to continue to work together to advance bilateral Strategic Partnership. Kazakhstan (Capital: Astana) Location: Kazakhstan, officially the Republic of Kazakhstan is a landlocked country mostly in Central Asia. Political Boundaries: Kazakhstan shares its borders with China (East), Russia (North and West), Uzbekistan (South), Kyrgyzstan (Southeast) and Turkmenistan (Southwest). Physical Features: - The highest point in Kazakhstan is Khan Tengri. - The major rivers in Kazakhstan include the Irtys, Syr Darya, Ili, Ural and Chu, contributing to the country's irrigation, transportation, and ecosystem. - Kazakhstan is rich in minerals, including coal, iron ore, copper, gold, uranium and various rare earth elements, making it a significant player in the global mining industry. 

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR:** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ):** 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR):** 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR:** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029



dhyeyaias.com

26 June, 2024

POINTS TO PONDER

- How many medals did India win in the Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024? - **11**
- Where was the 64th International Sugar Organization Council meeting recently organized? - **New Delhi, India**
- Which ministry recently launched the National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024? - **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- Which state government has recently approved the establishment of one Prime Minister College of Excellence in all the districts of the state under NEP? - **Madhya Pradesh**
- Khalubar War Memorial museum, recently seen in the news, is located in which region of India? - **Ladakh**

Face to Face Centres

DELHI MUKHERJEE NAGAR: 9205274741, 42 | **LAXMI NAGAR :** 9205212500, 9205962002 | **RAJENDRA NAGAR:** 9205274743 | **UTTAR PRADESH PRAYAGRAJ:** 0532-2260189, 8853467068 | **LUCKNOW (ALIGANJ):** 0522-4025825, 9506256789 | **LUCKNOW (GOMTI NAGAR):** 7234000501, 7234000502 | **GREATER NOIDA:** 9205336037, 38 | **KANPUR:** 7887003962, 7897003962 | **GORAKHPUR :** 7080847474, 9161947474 | **ODISHA BHUBANESWAR:** 9818244644/7656949029



dhyyeaias.com