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Current affairs summary for prelims

12 September, 2024

Fundamental Duties

Context: *The Supreme Court recently heard a plea urging clear laws for enforcing constitutional fundamental duties.*

➢ **Overview:**

- The Attorney General highlighted that enforcing fundamental duties requires ongoing legislative and executive efforts, not just constitutional amendments.
- The Supreme Court adjourned a plea for directives on fundamental duties, noting their non-justiciable nature.
- **Fundamental Duties** are added by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976, Part IV-A of the Indian Constitution.
- **Purpose:** To remind citizens of their responsibilities towards the nation, complementing fundamental rights.
- **Inspiration**: Based on the **Constitution** of the former **USSR**.

➢ **List of Fundamental Duties**

- **Respect the Constitution**: Uphold constitutional ideals.
- **National Symbols:** Respect the flag and anthem.
- **Defend the Country:** Serve in defence services if required.
- **Promote Harmony**: Foster unity and brotherhood among people.
- **Preserve the Environment:** Protect natural resources.
- **Develop Scientific Temper**: Cultivate humanism and inquiry.
- **Safeguard Public Property**: Protect public assets and avoid violence.
- **Strive for Excellence:** Aim for excellence in all areas of activity.

➢ **Objectives**

- **Encourage Civic Responsibility**: Foster commitment among citizens.
- **Complement Rights:** Remind citizens of their duties alongside their rights.
- **Promote National Integration:** Support unity and respect for national symbols.

➢ **Challenges**

- **Non-Justiciable:** Fundamental duties cannot be enforced by the judiciary.
- **Lack of Legal Framework:** No specific laws enforce these duties, limiting practical implementation.
- **Need for Legislation:** Effective enforcement requires legislative frameworks and policies.
- **Judicial Limits:** Courts can guide but not enforce specific actions.

➢ **Sardar Swaran Singh Committee**

- **Formation**: 1976
- **Recommendation**: Inclusion of Fundamental Duties in the Constitution.
- **Purpose**: Ensure citizens fulfil moral obligations towards the nation.
- **Outcome**: Recommendations led to the addition of Fundamental Duties in Part IV-A of the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976.

AI in military

Context: *At the recent REAIM summit in Seoul, 60 nations endorsed AI military guidelines, excluding China.*

➢ **Overview:**

- Recently, 60 nations endorsed AI military guidelines at the REAIM summit in Seoul, with China not participating.
- The previous summit in The Hague involved around 60 nations endorsing a non-binding "call to action."
- The updated blueprint reflects advancements like Ukraine's use of AI-enabled drones and includes measures to prevent AI proliferation of WMDs and ensure human control in nuclear weapons use.

➢ **AI Applications in Defence**

- **Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR):**
  - **Enhanced Data Analysis:** AI improves the analysis of vast amounts of data from satellites, drones, and sensors, enhancing situational awareness.
  - **Real-time Surveillance:** AI systems process live video feeds to detect anomalies, improving surveillance capabilities.
- **Autonomous Vehicles and Drones:**
  - **AI-enabled Drones:** These drones are used for reconnaissance, surveillance, and targeted strikes and can operate autonomously or semi-autonomously in complex environments.

- **Self-driving Military Vehicles:** AI is used in autonomous tanks and supply vehicles to reduce human risk and improve operational efficiency.

- **Logistics and Inventory Management:**
  - **Predictive Maintenance:** AI predicts equipment failures before they occur, ensuring timely maintenance and reducing downtime.
  - **Supply Chain Optimization:** AI optimizes logistics routes and manages inventory efficiently.
- **Cybersecurity:**
  - **Threat Detection:** AI systems detect and respond to cyber threats in real-time, protecting military networks and data.
  - **Behavioural Analysis:** AI monitors network traffic for unusual patterns that may indicate a security breach.
- **Decision Support Systems (DSS):**
  - **Strategic Planning:** AI aids in military planning by simulating various scenarios and outcomes.
  - **Tactical Decision-making:** AI provides commanders with actionable insights and recommendations during operations.
- **Training and Simulation:**
  - **Virtual Training Environments:** AI-driven simulations offer realistic training experiences for soldiers and strategists.
  - **Performance Analysis:** AI assesses performance during training to identify areas for improvement.

➢ **Advantages**

- **Increased Efficiency and Accuracy:**
  - **Precision Targeting:** AI enhances the accuracy of targeting systems, reducing collateral damage and increasing mission success rates.
  - **Faster Decision-making:** AI processes data quickly, allowing for faster and more informed decision-making.
- **Enhanced Operational Capabilities:**
  - **24/7 Surveillance:** AI systems provide continuous monitoring without fatigue, improving security and operational readiness.
  - **Autonomous Operations:** AI reduces the need for human presence in dangerous or inaccessible areas.
- **Improved Logistics and Maintenance:**
  - **Predictive Analytics:** AI anticipates equipment needs and potential failures, optimizing maintenance schedules and supply chains.
- **Advanced Threat Detection:**
  - **Cybersecurity:** AI improves the ability to detect and mitigate cyber threats, protecting critical military infrastructure.
- **Cost Savings:**
  - **Operational Costs:** AI reduces human resource requirements and increases the lifespan of equipment through predictive maintenance.

➢ **Indian Government Initiatives**

- **AI Task Force:** The Indian government has established an AI Task Force to explore and promote AI applications in various sectors, including defence.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):** DRDO is working on integrating AI into defence systems for better surveillance, autonomous systems, and data analysis, and collaborates with technology firms and research institutions.
- **National AI Portal:** The portal outlines the strategic vision for AI in India, including its application in the defence sector, and provides funding and support for related research and development projects.
- **Defence Production Policy:** This policy encourages innovation and the adoption of advanced technologies, including AI, in defence production.
- **International Collaboration:** India participates in international forums and collaborations focused on the responsible use of AI in military contexts.

➢ **REAIM Summit Goals**

- **Global Governance:** The summit aims to develop agreed norms for the military use of AI to prevent misuse and ensure responsible applications.
- **Long-term Impact:** It seeks to shape the future of military AI by addressing its risks and benefits through international cooperation.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

Context: *Recently, the Union Cabinet approved health coverage for all seniors aged 70 and above under AB PM-JAY.*

➢ **Overview:**

- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved ₹5 lakh health cover for all seniors aged 70 and above.
- The scheme covers 6 crore seniors, fulfilling a BJP promise, with new AB PM-JAY cards issued.
- AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health scheme, offering ₹5 lakh per family annually to 55 crore individuals.

- The scheme now covers 37 lakh ASHAs/AWWs/AWHs and their families and provides ₹5 lakh healthcare coverage for all citizens aged 70+.

➢ **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**

➢ **Overview**

- **Launch Date:** September 23, 2018
- **Location:** Ranchi, Jharkhand
- **Objective:** To provide accessible and affordable healthcare; world's largest government-funded health scheme targeting over 50 crore beneficiaries.
- **Significance:Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** A step towards comprehensive and converged secondary and tertiary care service delivery.

➢ **Key Benefits**

- **Coverage:** Up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- **Beneficiaries:** Covers 10.74 crore vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore individuals).
- **Service Access:** Cashless and paperless at point of service.
- **Financial Protection:** Aims to reduce catastrophic health expenditure and mitigate financial risk from health episodes.

➢ **Features**

- **Continuum of Care:** Combines Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) for primary care and AB-PMJAY for secondary and tertiary care.
- **HWCs:** 1,50,000 centres for Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC), maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases.
- **PMJAY:** Provides health protection for secondary and tertiary care.

➢ **Implementation**

- **Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP):** Network of public and private hospitals for cashless services.
- **Coverage:** Includes 1350 procedures, diagnostics, and medicines.

➢ **Progress and Development**

- **MOUs Signed:** 30 states and UTs have signed agreements; pilot launches in around 22 states/UTs.
- **Pilot Launch:** Tests IT systems and state preparedness with over 1280 hospitals.
- **Training:** Pradhan Mantri Aarogya Mitras (PMAMs) trained to assist beneficiaries.

➢ **IT Systems**

- **Beneficiary Identification System (BIS):** Developed for verification at service points.
- **Transaction Management System (TMS):** Facilitates hospital transactions and claims.

➢ **Beneficiary Identification**

- **Common Service Centres (CSCs):** Used for identifying beneficiaries and sending personalized letters.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

National Florence Nightingale Award

Yesterday, on 11th of September, the President of India conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to Nurses at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

About National Florence Nightingale Award:

- The National Florence Nightingale Award was **instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the year 1973.**
- This award is given as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the **nurses** and **nursing professionals** to society.
- The award includes a **cash prize of ₹50,000**, along with **a certificate** and **a medal**.
- The award is given to outstanding Nursing personnel employed in Central, **State/UTs**, **Private**, **Missionary and Voluntary Organizations**.
- The National Florence Nightingale Awards honour nursing excellence across categories like **Auxiliary Nurse**, **Midwife**, **Lady Health Visitors** and **Nurses**.

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Inner Line Permit

Recently, in Nagaland, the State Government has approved the implementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) in Chumoukedima, Niuland and Dimapur districts.

About the Inner Line Permit:

- The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an **official travel document** that **allows Indian citizens to enter protected areas** in certain Northeastern states for a limited time.
- The Inner Line Permit system is implemented in the states of Arunachal **Pradesh**, **Nagaland**, **Manipur** and **Mizoram**.
- Citizens of these states are exempt and visitors cannot overstay beyond the ILP's permitted duration.
- It originated from the Bengal Eastern Frontier **Regulation Act of 1873**, which was **introduced by the British** to protect the indigenous population of tribal hill areas.
- **Foreign tourists require a Protected Area Permit** (PAP), which differs from the ILP for Indian citizens.
- The purpose of the Inner Line Permit is to **regulate movement**, protect indigenous communities and **preserve local culture**, **customs** and **security** by controlling demographic influx.

Bhadra Tiger Reserve

Recently, the invasive weed Mikania micrantha has been rapidly spreading in Bhadra Tiger Reserve (BTR) and threatening its biodiversity.

About Bhadra Tiger Reserve:

- The Bhadra Tiger Reserve is located in the **Western Ghats of Karnataka**.
- The reserve is **shaped like a saucer** and has undulating **terrain with valleys** and **steep hillocks**.
- The area was **first declared as the Jagara Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in 1951** and then **renamed to Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary in 1974**.
- It was declared the 25th **Project Tiger Reserve of India in 1998**.
- The reserve is located near **the river Bhadra and its tributaries**.
- **Flora:** The reserve has **dry-deciduous**, **moist-deciduous**, **shola** along with **teak**, **rosewood**, **mathi**, honne, nandi and various medicinal plants.
- **Fauna:** The reserve is home to **tigers**, **leopards**, **dholes**, **Indian civet** and ungulates like **gaur**, **sambar, elephants** and barking deer.

Personality in News Govind Ballabh Pant

Recently, Govind Ballabh Pant was remembered on his birth anniversary.

Govind Ballabh Pant (10 September 1887-7 March 1961):

Govind Ballabh Pant, an eminent Indian Freedom fighter and **first CM of Uttar Pradesh** was born in Khoont village near Almora, Uttrakhand (then part of the United Provinces).

Contributions:

- Govind Ballabh Pant was actively involved in **India's independence movement**, participating in the **Non-Cooperation** and **Civil Disobedience Movements.**
- He represented revolutionaries like Ramprasad Bismill in the Kakori Conspiracy case and was imprisoned for organizing the **Salt March** and signing the **Quit India Movement** resolution.
- He played a pivotal role in establishing **Hindi** as the official language of India and introduced major reforms in the panchayat system and agriculture.

Awards and Honours:

- Govind Ballabh Pant was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** (India's highest civilian honor) in **1957**.
- Numerous institutions, including the **Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology**, Govind Ballabh Pant Engineering College, and **Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute,** have been named in his honour to commemorate his contributions to India.

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

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POINTS TO PONDER

- Recently, more than 100 cases of malnourished children have been reported from which tribe in Baran district of Rajasthan? **– Sahariya**
- In which Indian state will the country's first silicon carbide manufacturing facility be set up, recently announced by the state Chief Minister? **– Odisha**
- At which shipyard were the two anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft vessels, INS Malpe and INS Mulki, of the Indian Navy recently launched? **– Cochin Shipyard**
- Which community's 54 settlements will be connected through roads in north Chhattisgarh under the Prime Minister JANMAN scheme? **– Pahadi Korwa Tribe**
- Which spacecraft recently completed a flyby of Mercury and is expected to begin orbiting the planet in 2026? **– BepiColombo**