



Tipu Sultan's Contested Legacy

❖ Context

- Controversy erupted in Karnataka when supporters of a political party asked people to chase away Tipu Sultan supporters "to the forest".

❖ The rise of Tipu Sultan:

- Tipu Sultan was born on November 10, 1750, in Devanahalli, present-day Bangalore.
- **His father was Hyder Ali**, who rose through the ranks of the army of the Wodeyars, the Hindu rulers of Mysore.
- Hyder Ali seized **power from the Wodeyars in 1761** and ruled for 20 years, a period in which the kingdom of Mysore had slowly expanded by capturing disputed areas at its borders.
- **During this time**, Tipu was educated in both matters of Statecraft and Warcraft, participating in his first battle at the age of only 15.
- **When Hyder Ali died in 1782**, Tipu's primary motivation was to consolidate the territory he had inherited from his father.
- Specifically, the **rebellious provinces of Malabar, Kodagu, and Bednur**, were crucial to Mysore's strategic and economic interests.
- **His rule in these areas** is what is often cited as proof of his bigotry and authoritarianism.

❖ Tipu The Tyrant:

- Warfare in Tipu's time was brutal and those who rebelled were dealt with an iron fist. It was common practice to set strong examples to forestall future opposition.
- **The punishments Tipu** applied to rebels or conspirators included the forced conversion and the transfer of people from their home territories to Mysore.
- **The forced removals occurred from both Kodagu and Malabar**, the former as a response to continued resistance against Mysore rule, the latter as a result of their resistance and perceived treachery in the Anglo-Mysore Wars.

❖ Tipu Sultan's Reforms:

- **Tipu's fascination with European culture** was a result of what he saw while fighting Europeans.
 - One of his emissaries returned from France **with gunsmiths, watchmakers, workers of porcelain from Sèvres, glass-workers, textile weavers, printers** who could work with Eastern languages, an engineer and a physician, not to speak of clove and camphor trees, European fruit trees, and seeds of various flowers.
 - Tipu wanted **Mysore to be a modern rival of the European powers** and made investments in technology accordingly.
 - Tipu is credited for the **introduction of iron-cased rockets in warfare**. While rocket-like weapons had previously been used in War, Tipu's army used what can be termed as **the first modern war rockets in the Anglo-Mysore Wars**.
 - **The British used Tipu's models** for their own rockets, which would go on to play an important role in the Napoleonic Wars. Tipu Sultan also pioneered administrative & economic reforms. He **introduced new coins, started a new land revenue system in Mysore**, as well as introduced sericulture of silkworm cultivation.
- ### ❖ Tipu's Legacy: Looking At The Past From The Prism Of The Present:
- Tipu has been **mythologized to suit the political exigencies** of the day. In the course of India's freedom struggle, Tipu Sultan became a symbol of resistance against British rule. His death while defending his fortress of Srirangaptna against British armies in 1799 **was valorised as the ultimate sacrifice** for the motherland – a historian argues.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

❖ Context

- Recently, **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)** Secretary-General said "time is now" for earthquake-hit Turkey to ratify applications by Finland and Sweden to join the defence alliance.



❖ Key Highlights:

- Alarmed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year ago, Finland, on May 12, 2022, and Sweden, on May 16, 2022, **applied to join NATO**.
- All 30 NATO members approved their applications, & 28 have ratified their accession.
- **Only Turkey and Hungary have failed to do so.**
- **Significance** : While Finland shares a 1,300-km border with Russia, Sweden's Gotland Island is 300 km from Russia's Baltic Fleet in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

- If and when they do join NATO, Finland & Sweden will both be guaranteed military support by members of the security alliance in case an external force attacks them.
- From NATO's perspective, both countries have strong militaries.

❖ About NATO:

- It is a military alliance formed in 1949 by 12 countries, including the US, Canada, the UK & France.
- Members agree to come to one another's aid in the event of an armed attack against any one member state.
- Its aim was originally to counter the **threat of post-war Russian expansion in Europe**.
- **Headquarters** : Brussels, Belgium.



- **Headquarters of Allied Command Operations** is near Mons, Belgium.
- Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original **12 countries to 30**.
- The most recent member state to be added to NATO was **North Macedonia on 27 March 2020**.
- NATO membership is open to “any other European state in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area.”



Pangolins

❖ Context

➤ On the eve of **World Pangolin Day** observed on February 18, **TRAFFIC** has brought out a fact sheet reporting that 1,203 pangolins have been found in illegal wildlife trade in India from 2018 to 2022.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The **report was released by TRAFFIC**, a global wildlife conservation non-profit, and **World Wide Fund for Nature-India**.
- Odisha reported the maximum number of incidents followed by Maharashtra.

❖ About Indian Pangolins:

Physical Characteristics:

- Indian Pangolin is a **large anteater covered by 11-13 rows of scales** on the back.
- A terminal scale is also present on the lower side of the tail of the Indian Pangolin, which is absent in the Chinese Pangolin.
- It has **thick scaly skin**.
- It is **nocturnal & rests** in deep burrows during the day.

Distribution :

Out of the eight species of pangolin, the **Indian Pangolin (Manis crassicaudata)** and the **Chinese Pangolin (Manis pentadactyla)** are found in India.

- The Indian pangolin has been recorded in **various forest types, including Sri Lankan rainforest and plains to middle hill levels**.
- Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam see the presence of both.
- It **inhabits grasslands and secondary forests**, and is well adapted to dry areas and desert regions, but prefers more barren, hilly regions.

Food :

It is an **insectivore feeding on ants and termites**.

Threats :

It is **hunted for meat and used in traditional Chinese medicine**.

- Pangolins are among the **most trafficked wildlife species** in the world.

Protection Status : IUCN Red List .

- **Indian Pangolin: Endangered.**
- **Chinese Pangolin: Critically Endangered.**
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
 - Both these species are listed under **Schedule I**.
- **CITES- Appendix I.**

❖ TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce)

- It is a **Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network** and global non-governmental organisation monitoring the trade in wild animals and plants that focuses on biodiversity and sustainable development.
- It was originally **created in 1976** as a specialist group of the Species Survival Commission of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- It evolved into a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the IUCN.

News in Between the Lines

Windfall Profit Tax



❖ Context

➤ Recently, the Union government **hiked the windfall profit tax** levied on domestically-produced crude oil as well as on the export of diesel and **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)**.

❖ About Windfall Profit Tax

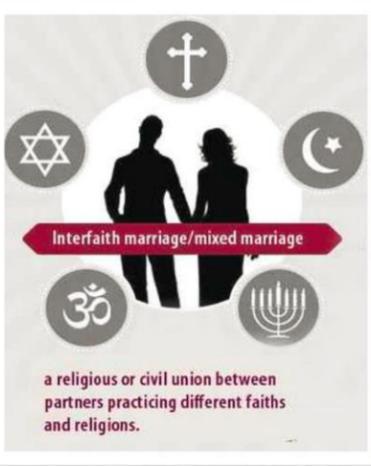
- A windfall tax is a **higher tax rate levied by governments** against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience above-average profits.
- For instance, the **energy price-rise as a result of the Russia-Ukraine conflict**.
- These are profits that cannot be attributed to something the firm actively did, like an investment strategy or an expansion of business.
- Windfall taxes are **reviewed on a fortnightly basis** and are **subject to factors such as international oil prices, exchange rate and quantity of exports**.
- **The B.K. Chaturvedi committee's report on the Financial Position of Oil Companies (2008)** : It had stated that taxing of these windfall gains has been seen as a prerogative of governments, in part to meet fiscal needs and in part to pursue redistributive justice.

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The Special Marriage Act of 1954 (SMA)



Special Marriage Act, 1954



❖ Context

➤ Recently, a famous actor got married under Special Marriage Act 1954.

❖ About The Special Marriage Act of 1954 (SMA)

- It was passed by the Parliament on October 9, 1954.
- It is the legislation made to **validate and register interreligious and inter-caste marriages** in India.
- It allows two individuals to **solemnise their marriage through a civil contract**.
- **No religious formalities are needed** to be carried out under the Act.
- This Act **includes Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists marriages**.
- The **consenting couple** (Men above 21 years and women above 18 years) who were going to get married have to provide a 30-day Notice at the Marriage Registrar's office.
- After 30 days they can get married. If there are any objections raised then the Marriage Registrar will investigate the objection.
- This Act **applies** not only to **Indian citizens** who belong to different castes and religions but also to **Indian nationals who live abroad**.

What is 'special' about the Special Marriage Act 1954 ?

The Special Marriage Act 1954 (SMA) gives legal recognition to the marriage composed of two people from different religious backgrounds. It lays down the procedure for its solemnization and registration.

Hence the couple who are unable to get married due to inter-caste restrictions or inter-faith restrictions are free to register their marriage under the Special Marriage Act and suspend the marriage to be governed by any personal law.

❖ Interfaith Marriages:

- It simply means the **matrimonial relation between individuals who follow different religious faiths**.
- Marriage between the same faiths has been governed by the **Hindu Marriage Act 1955, Muslim personal Law**.
- But to rectify and include interfaith marriages, the Center passed the **Special Marriage Act 1954**.
- Special Marriage Act considers **Interfaith Marriages as secular**.

Munich Security Conference



❖ Context

➤ While giving a **speech at the Munich Security Conference** a Billionaire investor said that the allegations levied by US short-seller Hindenburg Research against the Adani Group threaten to hurt investor confidence in India.

❖ What is the Munich Security Conference?

- **The MSC was founded by a German official and publisher Ewald-Heinrich von Kleist** at the peak of the Cold War (1947-1991).
- **Starting in 1963**, the conference initially only focused on military issues and was mainly **attended by western countries** and their high-profile officials, who "came together to display a united front in their struggle with Soviet communism".
- **After the end of the Cold War**, the conference expanded its agenda that went beyond defence and security matters to include issues such as climate change and migration.
- It also started to invite leaders from eastern nations, including Russia, India and China.
- Today, the MSC held in February every year, "**seeks to promote trust and contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts** by facilitating ongoing, curated, yet informal dialogue within the international security community".
- Since its inception, it has been cancelled only twice.

Organ Donation



❖ Context

➤ The Union Health Ministry has **done away with the age cap of 65 years** for receiving an organ from a dead donor.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Although **there was no age cap** for living donor transplants where family members donate organs like kidneys and livers.
- However people over the age of 65 years couldn't register to receive organs from deceased donors **as per guidelines of NOTTO (National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation)**. **This requirement has been done away with.**

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• Officials said that while **preference will still be given to younger recipients**, those above the age of 65 will not be completely barred from the process.

• Organs from deceased donors accounted for nearly 17.8% of all transplants in 2022 in the country. India conducts **the third highest number** of transplants in the world.

❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, the Union Health Ministry devised a strategic road map for achieving zero cases of leprosy by 2030.

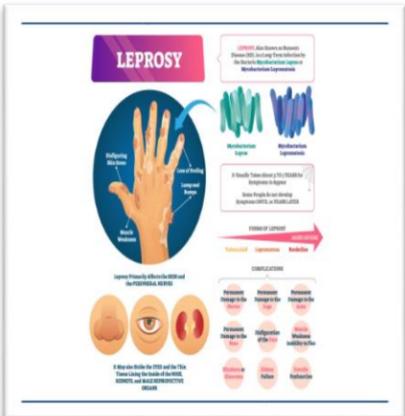
❖ **Key Highlights:**

- Despite India being declared “Leprosy Eliminated” in 2005, the country still accounts for over half (52%) of world’s new leprosy patients.
- Earlier gains made in the leprosy programme were reversed during COVID-19 as a sudden decline in case detection numbers was noted.
- Decline in detection has led to increase in patients with grade 2 disabilities.

❖ **About Leprosy:**

- Leprosy is **also known as Hansen’s disease**.
- It is an infectious disease which is **caused by a bacillus Mycobacterium leprae**.
- The disease has been **named after Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen** who was a **Norwegian physician**.
- Hansen proved that **leprosy is not a hereditary disease** but is caused by a bacterium.
- The disease is a curable disease & treatment at the early stage can prevent any disability.
- It can **cause a progressive and permanent damage to the skin, nerves, limbs and eyes** if it is left untreated.
- The **incubation period of the disease is 5 years usually**.
- Symptoms of the disease can be seen within 1 year but it could also **take 20 years or even more years** to occur.

Leprosy



❖ **Context**

➤ The first G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meet, to be held in Khajuraho next week, will be themed around the protection and restitution of cultural property.

❖ **About Khajuraho:**

- The temples are more than a thousand year old but it was **Captain T.S. Burt** who ‘re-discovered’ and introduced these temples to the world in 1838.
- **Built in the medieval century by the Chandela Dynasty**, most temples were constructed between 950 and 1050 AD during the reigns of Hindu Kings Yasovarman and Dhanga.
- The UNESCO site of 'Khajuraho Group of Monuments' is famous for its **Nagara-Style architecture** and graceful sculptures of nayikas (Hindu Mythological female protagonists) and deities.
- Temples **represent various forms** of meditation, spiritual teachings and relationships through stimulating art.
- Complex is home to the largest group of medieval **Hindu and Jain temples in India**.

Khajuraho



Technotex 2023



❖ **Context**

➤ Ministry of Textiles is going to organize India's forthcoming premier show on Technical Textiles, **‘Technotex 2023: Envisioning Indian Technical Textiles@ 2047**.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- It is being organised in **collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce Industry** for the purpose of promotion of technical textiles.
- Technical Textiles includes textiles meant for some specific purpose **like Medical, Defence, Industrial, Agriculture, Automotive, Building, Packaging textiles** etc.
- Technotex 2023 would support in exemplifying the immense potential for trade and investment between **India and foreign countries** in Technical Textile sector.
- Technotex 2023 is thus aligning with the Government’s concerted efforts in direction of making India a **leading manufacturing hub** in the area of Technical Textiles.
- **Maharashtra is the Host State** for the event and Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh are the Partner States.

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