

Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh Massacre



❖ Context

- This year, April 13 marks the 104th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, also known as the Amritsar Massacre

❖ Rowlatt Act

- The Rowlatt Act (Black Act) was passed on March 10, 1919.
- It authorized the government to imprison or confine, without a trial, any person associated with seditious activities.
- This led to nationwide unrest.
- **Impact :**
 - The act gave the government authority to arrest any suspected person without a warrant and detain him/her for up to 2 years without a trial.
 - The act took away people's right to legal discourse & suspended the constitutional right to habeas corpus.
 - The Rowlatt act as an extension of the emergency law in the aftermath of the first world war.
 - The act also meant severe limitations on free press and gave the police undue right to search public and private spaces without a warrant. An indefinite ban on public gatherings of any nature.
- In protest, Mahatma Gandhi launched a nationwide satyagraha (peaceful civil disobedience movement) against the Rowlatt Act on 6th April 1919.
- In various parts of India, the movement turned violent and riots broke out.

- As the protest turned violent, many prominent Congress leaders were arrested like Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.
- In Punjab, martial law dictated that no more than 4 people were allowed to assemble in the province.
- ❖ **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre**
 - The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre took place on 13th April 1919 on the day of Baisakhi when a large group of men, women and children unaware of the martial law decided to assemble in the park.
 - The peaceful protest was organised against the Rowlatt Act and the wrongful arrest of Congress leaders in India.
 - Without any warning, General Dyer ordered its men to block all entrances and to open fire on the peaceful gathering.
 - This massacre took 400 civilian lives & injured 1200.
 - The massacre at Amritsar was a turning point in the Indian national movement as the moderate leaders lost faith in the fairness of the British regime.
 - The Hunter Commission was set up to investigate the event and condemned the actions of General Dyer.

Reits and InvITs Index



❖ Context

- Recently, NSE Indices Ltd, a subsidiary of **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**, has launched India's first ever **Real Estate Investment Trusts (Reits)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** Index.

❖ Key Highlights

- The new index— Nifty Reits and InvITs index— aims to track the performance of Reits and InvITs that are publicly listed and traded on the NSE.
- The weights of securities within the index are based on their free-float market capitalization, subject to a security cap of 33% each and aggregate weight of top-3 securities is capped at 72%.
- The Nifty Reits & InvITs Index has a base date of 1 July 2019 and a base value of 1,000. The index will be reviewed and rebalanced on a quarterly basis.

❖ Real Estate Investment Trusts (Reits)

- In India, the Real Estate Investment Trusts were introduced by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in 2007.
- The first REIT was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1965.
- REIT or Real Estate Investment Trust refers to an entity created with the sole purpose of channelling investible funds into operating, owning or financing income-producing real estate.

- REITs are modelled on the lines of mutual funds and provide investors with an extremely liquid way to get a stake in real estate.
- Like any other security, REITs can enlist themselves on a stock exchange.
- There are primarily two types of REITs – equity and mortgage.
- ❖ **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**
 - An Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
 - InvITs work like mutual funds or real estate investment trusts (REITs) in features.
 - InvITs can be treated as the modified version of REITs designed to suit the specific circumstances of the infrastructure sector.
 - Sebi notified the Sebi (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 on September 26, 2014, providing for registration and regulation of InvITs in India.
 - InvITs can be established as a trust and registered with Sebi. An InvIT consists of four elements: 1) Trustee, 2) Sponsor(s), 3) Investment Manager and 4) Project Manager.

Face to Face Centres

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Preventive Detention

❖ Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court that said “**Preventive Detention**” laws in India are a colonial legacy that have great potential to be abused and misused by the State and any slightest error in compliance of procedure by authorities should result in favour of the detainee.



❖ Key Highlights

- Preventive detention means to detain a person so that to prevent that person from committing on any possible crime.
- In other words preventive detention is an action taken by the administration on the grounds of the suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned which will be prejudicial to the state.
- There are 2 types of Detention :
 - Preventive Detention
 - Punitive Detention

❖ Constitutional Provisions

- The Article 22 of the Indian Constitution provides safeguards against the misuse of police powers to make arrests and detentions.
- **Article 22(2) :**
 - Every person who is arrested and detained in custody shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of twenty four hours of such arrest excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court of the magistrate.
 - No such person shall be detained in custody beyond the said period without the authority of a magistrate.
- **Article 22(4) :**
 - No individual can be detained for more than 3 months unless a bench of High court judges or an Advisory board decides to extend the date.
 - An Advisory Board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.
 - Such a person is detained in accordance with the provisions of any law made by the Parliament.
 - The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 has reduced the period of detention without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board from three to two months.
 - However, this provision has not yet been brought into force, hence, the original period of three months continues

• **Article 22 (5) :**

- It states that the detained individual should be made aware of the grounds he/she has been detained (in pursuance of the order).
- The person should provide him/her with an opportunity of making a representation against the case.

• **Entry 9 of List I (the Union List) :**

- Parliament has the exclusive power to enact a law for preventive detention for the reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs, or security of India.

• **Entry 3 of List III ('Concurrent List') :**

- Both Parliament and State Legislature have powers to enact such laws for the reasons related to the maintenance of public order or the maintenance of supplies or services essential to the community.

• **Legal Provision :**

- Under Section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) preventive detention is police action taken on grounds of suspicion that some wrong actions may be done by the person concerned.
- A police officer can arrest an individual without orders from a Magistrate and without any warrant if he gets any information that such an individual can commit any offense.

❖ Arrest

- An 'arrest' is done when a person is charged with a crime. An arrested person is produced before a magistrate within the next 24 hours.

Green Deposits

❖ Context

- Recently, Reserve Bank of India issued detailed guidelines for acceptance of 'green deposits' by banks and NBFCs wherein the funds could be used for financing activities like renewable energy, green transport and green buildings.



❖ Key Highlights

- Some Regulated Entities (REs) are already offering green deposits for financing green activities and projects.
- The framework will come into effect from June 1, 2023.

❖ About Green Deposits

- A green deposit is a fixed-term deposit for investors looking to invest their surplus cash reserves in environmentally friendly projects.

- This new offering in the market indicates the increased awareness of the importance of ESG (Environmental, social and governance) and sustainable investing.
- With the momentum behind green banking products, many lenders like HSBC and HDFC have launched green deposits in India for corporates as well as individuals.

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Mini Trials

❖ Context:

- The Supreme Court of India has held that the High Court cannot conduct a "mini-trial" during the discharge or quashing of criminal proceedings under **Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973**.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The Court stated that at the discharge or quashing stage, the prosecution is not required to prove the charges against the accused.
- The charges are required to be **proved during the trial based** on the evidence led by the prosecution or investigating agency.
- The Court observed that the High Court had exceeded its jurisdiction in quashing the entire criminal proceedings under **Section 482 of the CrPC or Article 226** of the Constitution.
- The Court held that whether the proceedings were malicious or not should be considered at the conclusion of the trial and not at the discharge or quashing stage.
- What was required was to determine whether **sufficient materials** were collected during the investigation to warrant the accused being tried.

❖ What are Mini-Trials?

- Mini trials are a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) used to resolve complex **legal disputes outside of court**.
- They involve a condensed and informal version of a trial in which both parties present their evidence and arguments to a **neutral third party or panel of experts**.
- The neutral party then evaluates the evidence and issues a non-binding advisory opinion on the merits of the case. The purpose of the mini trial is to allow parties to **assess the strengths** and weaknesses of their case and to explore the possibility of a settlement without incurring the time and expense of a full trial.
- Mini trials are often used in **commercial and business disputes**, where the parties involved may have ongoing relationships and wish to preserve their business interests while still resolving their legal issues.
- While mini-trials are **not legally binding**, they can be a useful tool in resolving disputes and avoiding the uncertainty and **expense of a full trial**.

News in Between the Lines

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme



❖ Context

- Under the recently launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme of the Union government, railway infrastructure in the eastern Bengaluru will also get revamped.

❖ Key Highlights

- The scheme was launched by the Centre for upgradation and modernisation of 1275 railway stations.
- Amrit Bharat Station scheme aims at development of stations with improved amenities like better station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products etc.
- The scheme further aims at improvement of railway buildings, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.
- Nodal Ministry- Ministry of Railways

Mozambique



❖ Context

- External Affairs Minister began his engagements in Maputo, Mozambique recently by meeting with **President of Assembly Esperança Bias**.
- **It is** the first-ever visit by an external affairs minister of India to the country.

❖ About Mozambique:

- Mozambique is a country located in southeastern Africa, bordered by **Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Zambia** to the northwest, Zimbabwe to the west, Eswatini and South Africa to the southwest, and the Indian Ocean to the east.
- The capital and largest city is **Maputo**.
- Portuguese is the official language, but many Mozambicans also speak indigenous languages such as **Shangaan, Chichewa, and Makhuwa**.
- The country's economy is largely based on agriculture, with cash crops such as **cotton, cashews, and sugar cane** being major exports.
- Mozambique is also rich in natural resources, **including coal, natural gas, and precious stones**, and has recently started to develop its offshore gas reserves.

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International Flight Safety Standards



❖ Context

- India retains top status in International Flight Safety Standards.

❖ Key Highlights:

- India received category one status after the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)** of the United States conducted an audit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in the areas covering **aircraft operations, airworthiness, and personnel licensing**.
- FAA under its International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) program determines whether a country complies with safety standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- India had scored an **Effective Implementation (EI)** of 85.65% from the previous EI of 69.95% thereby enhancing its global ranking significantly.
- The FAA appreciated the DGCA for demonstrating a commitment to ensuring the effective safety oversight of India's aviation system.

❖ Significance:

- Category One status countries are permitted to operate and expand their services to destinations **in the USA and codeshare** with US air carriers.
- India's Category 1 determination has come at a time when the Indian aviation sector is on a high growth trajectory and is a testimony to India's commitment to effective safety oversight for **its civil aviation system**.

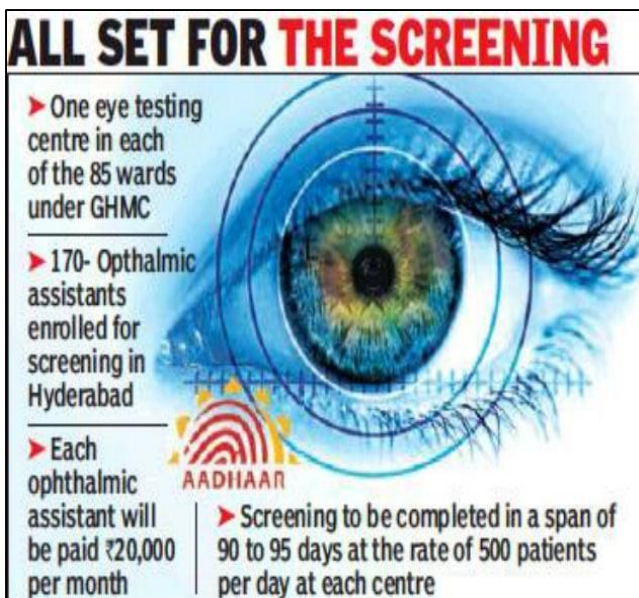
Kanti Velugu Programme



❖ Context

- The Telangana state government's initiative to prevent controllable blindness, called Kanti Velugu programme, has achieved a milestone by screening one crore people for eye problems.

❖ Key Highlights:



- The second phase of the programme started on 19th January and will continue till 15th June 2023.
- The program was launched in August 2018 and aims to **reduce the prevalence** of avoidable blindness in the state.
- Under the Kanti Velugu program, trained healthcare professionals conduct free **eye screenings in every village and urban ward in the state**.
- The screenings are conducted using a specially designed **mobile unit equipped** with state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment.
- The program also includes awareness campaigns to educate people about the importance of regular eye checkups and **maintaining good eye health**.

- The program also helps in the identification and management of other eye-related problems such as **cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy**.

Gond Painting



❖ Context

- Recently, the famed Gond painting of Madhya Pradesh has received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

❖ About Gond Painting

- Gond painting is a famous folk art of the Gond tribal community of central India.
- It is done to preserve and communicate the culture of the Gond tribal community.
- Gond tribal art includes folk dances, folk songs, and Gond paintings.
- The present-day Gond paintings have evolved from Digna and Bhittichitra.
- The Gonds paint Digna, a traditional geometric pattern on the walls and floors of the houses.
- Bhittichitra is painted on the walls of houses, and these paintings include images of animals, plants, and trees.
- Women use natural colors to paint the walls and floors of their homes.

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