

08 April 2023

Madh Island

❖ Context

- Recently, the western zone bench of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** revoked the stay on demolition of five studios in the Madh Island while dismissing a plea filed by the studio operators, disallowing them from further operations.



❖ Madh Island:

- The **Arabian Sea** bounds Madh Island to the west and the Malad creek towards the east.
- There are many beaches like **Erangel Beach**, Dana Pani Beach, Marve Beach, and Aksa Beach, which are very close to Madh Island.
- The area is a rural area **inhabited primarily by Kolis, Marathi, East Indians, Roman Catholics** in Madh village as well as by people from other communities.
- **Madh Fort** : Madh Fort is a small fort in northern Mumbai, India situated at Madh Island.
 - It was **built by the Portuguese** in Portuguese occupied India.
 - They lost it during the war against Maratha empire when the **Maratha Empire captured it in February 1739**.
 - The British occupied Salsette Island, Thana Fort, Fort Versova, & the island fort of Karanja in 1774.
- Over the years Madh has evolved from a group of fishing villages to a prominent residential & holiday destination.
- It also **houses Airforce and Naval stations**.
- 'Erangel' is a picturesque village on Madh island which is a popular filming location.

❖ About NGT:

- It was **established in 2010** under the **NGT Act 2010**.
- **Status- Statutory Body**.
- Objectives : Established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to :
 - Environmental protection.
 - Conservation of forests and
 - Other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and
- It gives relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of the filing of the same.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- It is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- Composition- 40 members (20 expert members and 20 judicial members).

Representation in Indian Police Force

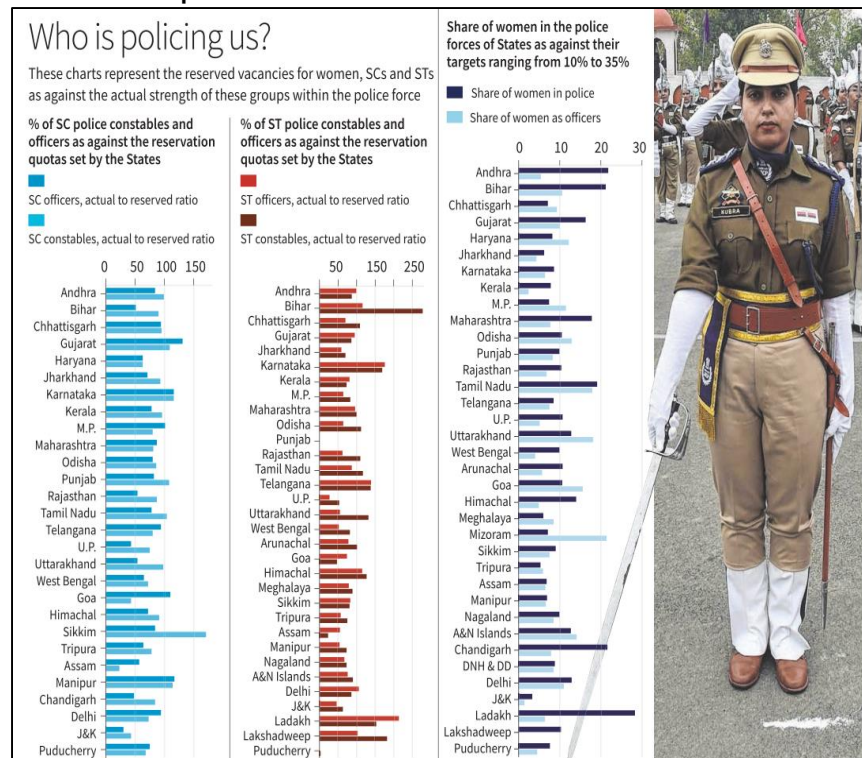
❖ Context

- The India Justice Report 2022, released by Tata Trusts recently has highlighted the current state of police forces in India based on various indicators.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The report found that the gap between the sanctioned & actual strength in police forces on the national level remains "worryingly large." As of January 2022, the overall vacancies in police rose from 20.3% of the sanctioned strength to 22.1%.
- Among large and mid-sized States, West Bengal had the worst constable vacancy rate at 44.1% of the sanctioned strength, while Kerala had the best at 4.6%.
- Bihar had the highest percentage of police officer vacancies at 53.8% against the sanctioned strength.
- Karnataka was the only State to meet its quotas for **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes**, with no other State/UT managing to meet their reservation targets.
- Haryana performed the best in terms of the **percentage of actual SC police** officers to its reservation quota, while Uttar Pradesh had the lowest.
- Among large and mid-sized States, no State that had a 33% criteria for women's representation in the police force managed to meet it.
- Andhra Pradesh, which reserves 33% of overall police posts for women, performed the best with 21.8% being its share of women in police, while Jharkhand was the worst performer with **just 6.2%**.
- The Supreme Court of India mandated the installation of CCTV cameras inside all police stations in December 2020.

- As of January 2022, of the 17,535 total police stations in the country, only **73.5% (12,893) had installed at least one CCTV camera**.
- **Manipur, Lakshadweep, & Puducherry** had not installed a single CCTV camera in any of their police stations.



Face to Face Centres

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News in Between the Lines

India Elected to UN Statistical Commission



❖ Context

- India has been elected to the United Nations Statistical Commission after a **gap of two decades**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The election was held by the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**, where India secured an overwhelming **46 out of 53 votes** in a secret ballot, beating **South Korea, UAE, and China**.
- South Korea won the other seat in the Asia Pacific States category after drawing lots with China. India was also elected to the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS**.
- The country will hold these positions for a term of four years beginning January 1, 2024.
- India's expertise in the field of statistics, diversity, and demography played a significant role in earning the seat on the UN Statistical Commission.
- India's official statistics experience will be a valuable addition to the functioning of the Statistical Commission.

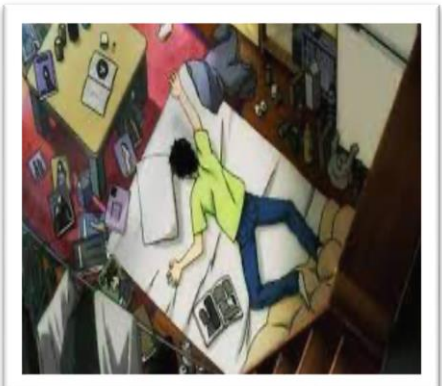
❖ About UN Statistical Commission

- The UN Statistical Commission is the highest decision-making body **for international statistical activities** and is responsible for setting statistical standards and developing concepts & methods, including their implementation at the national & international levels. The commission is established to **bring together chief statisticians** from member states worldwide.

❖ Significance:

- India's re-election showcases the country's expertise in the field of statistics, diversity, and demography, and its commitment to advancing multilateral solutions to global challenges.
- It reflects the international community's trust in India's contributions to these bodies and its commitment to tackling important **economic, social, and environmental issues**.

Hikikomori



❖ Context

- Hikikomori, a phenomenon of social withdrawal, is spreading rapidly in Japan, according to a government survey.

❖ Hikikomori:

- The survey found that almost 1.5 million people of working age are living as social recluses, with around 20% of cases attributed to the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic. Hikikomori is a **phenomenon of social withdrawal that has become increasingly prevalent in Japan**.
- The term refers to individuals, usually young adults, who withdraw from social interaction and isolate themselves in their homes for prolonged periods, sometimes for years. Hikikomori is associated with **feelings of anxiety, depression, and social phobia**, and it is thought to be a response to the pressures of modern society, including high academic expectations, intense competition, and social isolation.

Fact-check Body



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Electronics and IT** notified amendments to the Information Technology Rules, 2021.
- It allows the Ministry to appoint a fact-check body which will take a call on whether online information related to the Central Government is accurate.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Fact-check body will label content related to the government on online platforms like Facebook and Twitter as **“fake” or “misleading”**.
- Content marked as such by the body will have to be taken down by online intermediaries if they wish to retain their **‘safe harbour,’** which is legal immunity they enjoy against third-party content.
- Social media sites will have to take down such posts, and internet service providers will have to block URLs of such content.

Face to Face Centres

World Health Organisation (WHO)



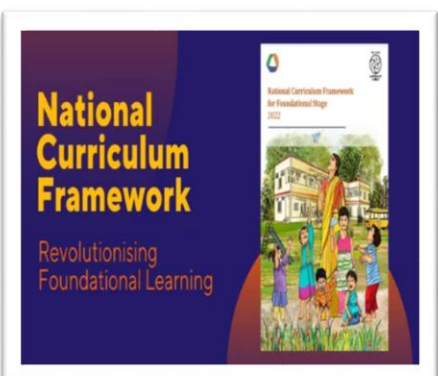
❖ Context

- The World Health Organization **observed its 75th anniversary on 7th April.**
- Each year WHO celebrates its date of establishment, April 7, 1948, as World Health Day.

❖ About WHO:

- The **World Health Organization** is the international body responsible for public health.
- Known as the WHO, it is **part of the United Nations** and was established in 1948.
- It is involved in many aspects of health policy and planning.
- Headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland,**
- It is an **inter-governmental organization** and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the **Ministries of Health.**
- There are **194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices..**
- Governance of WHO operates through the World Health Assembly.
- It **meets annually** as the general policy-making body, and through an Executive Board of health specialists elected for three-year terms by the assembly.
- The agency is financed primarily from annual contributions made by member governments on the basis of relative ability to pay.
- **Achievements :** It was instrumental in the global **eradication of smallpox**, which used to be one of the world's biggest killers.
 - It has also run a campaign that has achieved the **near-eradication of polio**, and has worked for decades to reduce the threat from **malaria.**

National Curriculum Framework (NCF)



❖ Context

- The **Ministry of Education** has released the **pre-draft of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)** for school education for public feedback on the recommendations which will be finalised after further rounds of discussions.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The NCF, which was last revised in 2005, is **a key document based on which textbooks are prepared.**
- So the current set of NCERT textbooks, barring the deletions, are all based on the NCF 2005. Before 2005, the NCF was revised thrice.
- Under the latest round of revision, which is underway since September 2021, draft frameworks on early childhood care and education and school education have already been prepared, while work on teacher and adult education is underway.
- Apart from textbooks, the NCF, after its adoption by the CBSE and other state boards, will also **restructure various other aspects of the classroom, including choice of subjects, pattern of teaching, and assessment.**
- The government recently announced that textbooks based on the revised NCF will be **taught in schools starting from the 2024-25 academic session.**

Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill



❖ Context:

- The Government recently introduced **the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023.**

❖ Key Highlights:

- The Bill is a proposed legislation seeking to amend the provisions of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005, to **promote the ease of doing business** and fine-tune the operational procedures of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority.
- The bill broadens the definition of coastal aquaculture and aims to promote newer forms of **environment-friendly coastal aquaculture.**
- It introduces new provisions for biosecurity to manage and prevent the risk of introducing or spreading harmful organisms within the coastal aquaculture unit.
- **The Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005** was enacted to establish the Coastal Aquaculture Authority for regulating activities connected with coastal aquaculture in coastal areas.
- The penalties and punishment under the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 have been proposed to be **decriminalised under the amendment bill.**

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Pseudomonas Aeruginosa



❖ Context

- Days after the **United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** linked Chennai-based Global Pharma Healthcare's eyedrops to the likelihood of a **highly drug-resistant bacteria pseudomonas aeruginosa**, the Union Health Ministry found the samples to be of 'standard quality'

❖ About Pseudomonas Aeruginosa:

- Pseudomonas is a **type of bacteria (germ)** that is found commonly in the **environment, like in soil and in water.**
- Of the many different types of Pseudomonas, the one that most often causes infections in humans is called Pseudomonas aeruginosa, which can **cause infections in the blood, lungs (pneumonia), or other parts of the body after surgery.**
- These bacteria are constantly finding new ways to avoid the effects of the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.
 - **Antibiotic resistance** occurs when the germs no longer respond to the antibiotics designed to kill them.
 - If they develop resistance to several types of antibiotics, these germs can become multidrug-resistant.
- In 2017, multidrug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa caused an estimated 32,600 infections among hospitalized patients and 2,700 estimated deaths in the United State
- **Those most at risk include :** patients in hospitals, especially those:
 - on breathing machines (ventilators)
 - with devices such as catheters
 - with wounds from surgery or burns

Repo Rate



❖ Context

- The Reserve Bank of India, in its first monetary policy review meeting in 2023-24, decided to keep the key benchmark interest rate — the repo rate — unchanged at 6.5 per cent.

❖ What is Repo Rate?

- Repo rate is the interest rate at which the central bank of a country (in India's case, the Reserve Bank of India) **lends money to commercial banks.**
- When the RBI wants to **increase liquidity in the banking system**, it reduces the repo rate, making it cheaper for banks to borrow money from the central bank.
- This, in turn, encourages banks to **borrow more and lend more** to consumers and businesses, which can stimulate economic growth.
- Conversely, when the RBI wants to reduce liquidity in the banking system, it **increases the repo rate**, making it more expensive for banks to borrow money from the central bank, which **can slow down inflationary pressures.**
- The repo rate is an important tool for the central bank to manage :
 - inflation,
 - economic growth,
 - and financial stability.

Cannabis Cultivation



MCQ Quiz

[Daily Current Affairs](#)

[Daily Pre PARE Daily](#)

❖ Context

- The Himachal Pradesh assembly recently constituted a committee of legislators to look into **legalisation of cannabis** cultivation in the state.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Cannabis has been used for thousands of years for various purposes, including **medicinal, recreational, and spiritual ones.**
- The plant contains more than a hundred chemical compounds, known as cannabinoids, with the most prominent ones **being THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) & CBD (cannabidiol).**
- **Medicinally**, cannabis has been found to have potential benefits for treating various conditions such as **chronic pain, nausea, anxiety, and seizures.**
- It can also help improve appetite and sleep in certain cases.
- **Note:** Uttarakhand has legalised cannabis cultivation. **Haryana and J&K** are other states that have such a policy

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