

State Bills and the Power of the Governor

❖ Context

- Recently, the Supreme Court observed that bills sent to the governor for assent must be **returned "as soon as possible"** and not be delayed, causing **Gubernatorial Procrastination** and making state Legislative Assemblies wait indefinitely.



❖ Key Highlights:

- This was observed as a part of a judicial order in a petition filed by the **State of Telangana**.
 - It complained that the Governor had kept several important Bills pending.
- **Recent Instances of Delaying Bills :**
 - The Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a resolution urging the President to fix a timeline for assent to be given to Bills passed by the Assembly.
 - The Governor forwarded the Bill for exemption from NEET to the President after considerable delay in the state.
 - In Kerala, the Governor publicly announced that he would not give assent to the Lokayukta Amendment Bill and the Kerala University Amendment Bill.

❖ State Bills and the Power of the Governor:

- **Article 200 of the Indian Constitution :** It includes the process for a state bill to be presented to the Governor for assent, who can choose to :
 - Assent
 - Withhold assent or Reserve the Bill for consideration by the President.
- The Governor may also return the Bill with a message requesting reconsideration by the House or Houses.
 - This **reservation is mandatory when** the bill passed by the State Legislature **endangers the position of the State High Court**.

• Article 201 of the Indian Constitution:

- When a Bill is reserved for the consideration of the President, the **President may assent to or withhold assent from the Bill**.
- The President may also direct the Governor to return the Bill to the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State for reconsideration.
- However, the Governor can reserve a bill and not grant assent in certain circumstances. This includes if the bill is
 - Against the provisions of the Constitution,
 - Opposed to the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), against the larger interest of the country,
 - Of grave national importance, or
 - Deals with compulsory acquisition of property under Article 31A of the Constitution.
- Withholding assent is not normally done by any Governor because it would be an extremely unpopular action.
- **Consequences:** The Governor's delay in giving assent to bills passed by the Assembly **violates the state's constitutional obligation** and hinders the functioning of the state government.
 - If the Governor persists in such behaviour, the state government can notify the President under **Article 355** and seek appropriate instructions to ensure compliance with the Constitution.
 - The Supreme Court has ruled that the **Governor is immune from court proceedings** for any act done in the exercise of their powers under Article 361 of the Constitution.

Royal Ransomware

❖ Context

- Recently, the Indian cyber security agency issued a warning against **"Royal ransomware" virus**.



❖ Key Highlights:

- It attacks critical sectors like communications, healthcare, education and even individuals and seeks pay-off in Bitcoins for not leaking personal data in the public domain.
- It was **first detected in January 2022** and it got active sometime around September last year even as the US authorities issued advisories against its spread.

❖ About Ransomware:

- Ransomware is a **type of malicious software**, used by cyber criminals, to **infect a computer system** by blocking access to the stored data by encrypting the files.
- A ransom is then **demanded from the owner in exchange for the decryption key**.

S.No.	Malware	Ransomware
1.	Malware is any file or a malicious code, designed to cause damage to a user's personal computer and network.	Ransomware is a form of malware designed to block access from system until a ransom fee is paid.
2.	Malware refers to a lot of different malicious software.	Ransomware is one of the type of malware.
3.	Malware is delivered via emails, software installations, USB or surfing through internet.	Ransomware is generally spread through phishing emails having malicious attachments.
4.	All other malware programs are less harmful than Ransomware and can be removed by using antivirus programs.	Ransomware is more harmful among all the malware as the only way of removal is to pay a ransom to its creator.
5.	Virus, trojan horses, worms and spyware are the various types of malware along with a few others.	Ransomware are of only two types- crypto and locker.
6.	It can control data and resources, cause error, destroy system and slow down the performance.	It provides profit to the ransomware programmers by getting money from user for unlocking the system.

- The malware may usually be **injected remotely by tricking the user into downloading it upon clicking an ostensibly safe web link** sent via email or other means, including hacking.
- It can **spread throughout the network** by exploiting existing vulnerabilities.
- Ransomware attacks can also be accompanied by **theft of sensitive data** for other sinister motives.

Face to Face Centres

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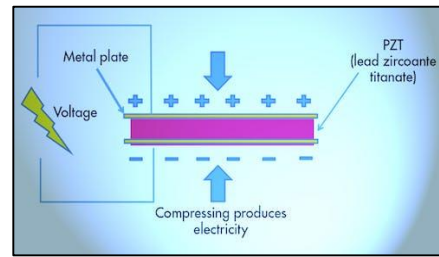


11 May 2023

Piezoelectricity

❖ Context

- Researchers from **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** and **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** have developed a **thin-membrane based sensor technology for underwater communication**.



❖ Key Highlights:

- They developed **piezoelectric MEMS** (micro electro mechanical system) technology where they fabricated 100mm diameter piezoelectric thin films.
- The film was fabricated with **good uniformity and higher piezoelectric properties**.
- The indigenous technology can be **used in defence applications**.
- It will help in the making and fabricating low-cost sensing devices than depending on international foundries where the fabrication cost is high.

❖ Piezoelectric Effect:

- The piezoelectric effect was **discovered in 1880, in quartz**.
- In the piezoelectric effect, a **body develops an electric current when it is squeezed**.
- There are a wide variety of materials which exhibit this phenomenon, including natural **quartz crystals, semi-crystalline polyvinylidene polymer, polycrystalline piezoceramic, bone and even wood**.
- Quartz is the most famous piezoelectric crystal: it is used in this capacity in analog wristwatches and clocks.

• Quartz :

- Quartz is **silicon dioxide (SiO₂)**.
- The quartz crystal consists of **silicon and oxygen atoms at the four vertices** of a three-sided pyramid; each oxygen atom is shared by two pyramids.
- These pyramids repeat themselves to form the crystal.
- The effective charge of each pyramid is located slightly away from the centre.
- When a mechanical stress is applied – i.e. when the crystal is squeezed – the position of the **charge is pushed further from the centre**, giving rise to a small voltage. This is the source of the effect.
- Such crystals are also used in cigarette lighters, electric guitars, TV remote controls, audio transducers, and other instruments where converting mechanical stress to a current is useful.

Ban on Diesel-Powered Vehicles

❖ Context

- A panel formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended a ban on the use of diesel-powered four-wheel vehicles by 2027 in cities with a **population of more than 1 million**.



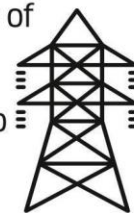
❖ Key Highlights:

- Furthermore, the report recommends a phased elimination of motorcycles, scooters, and 3-wheelers powered by internal combustion engines by 2035.
- In preparation for the phase-out of internal combustion engine two/three-wheelers by 2035, the report suggests the promotion of EVs.
- During this period, policies supporting the use of **ethanol-blended fuel** with an increasing blend ratio should be implemented.
- Passenger cars and taxis should be replaced with electric vehicles and partially with ethanol-blended petrol, with an equal share of **approximately 50%** in each category.
- **Extension of Incentives:** The report recommends extending incentives under the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles (FAME)** scheme beyond March 31 to boost EV adoption in India.
- **Boosting Natural Gas Usage:** Encouraging the use of natural gas in industries and automobiles is crucial, as it is a greener alternative to liquid fuels like diesel. India aims to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix to **15% by 2030**.

- By 2040, there is an anticipated peak in petrol and diesel demand in India, followed by a decline due to the increased use of electric vehicles.
- Additionally, LPG demand is expected to decrease after 2030 due to the electrification of cooking, ultimately leading to complete electrification by 2070.

Clean Energy

By 2035, share of grid power in India's energy use must rise to **40%** from current **18%**



Set up natural gas storage facilities to meet up to two months of national consumption



From 2024, all new registrations for city delivery vehicles to be only electric



Add no diesel city buses in urban areas

In 15 years, the share of railways should rise to 50% in national freight from 23% now



Blend LPG with alternatives such as compressed biogas & hydrogen



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11 May 2023

Swamp Deer

❖ Context

- 16 female and two male swamp deer were released recently in an enclosure at **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR)**.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The swamp deer is commonly referred to as barasingha, which means "twelve-tined". This name is derived from the large antlers of mature stags, which typically have 10 to 14 tines.
- Some exceptional individuals have even been known to have up to 20 tines.
- **Distribution:** The swamp deer is found in different regions of the Indian subcontinent. Its habitat includes marshes, swamps, and tall grasslands near rivers, where it feeds on aquatic plants and grasses.
- **Conservation status:** The swamp deer is listed as a **vulnerable species** on the IUCN Red List due to habitat loss and degradation.
- During the mating season, males (stags) emit a distinctive call known as "**bugling**" to attract females (hinds) and establish their territory.

❖ About Bandhavgarh National Park:

- Bandhavgarh National Park is situated in the **Umaria and Katni districts of Madhya Pradesh**.
- It spans across an area of approximately **450 square kilometers**.
- It is home to a significant tiger population and has played a crucial role in the conservation of these majestic animals.
- Besides tigers, the park is home to various other wildlife species, including **leopards, sloth bears, Indian bison (gaur), sambar deer, spotted deer, wild boars, and over 250 species of birds**.



i-DRONE

❖ Context

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently conducted a successful trial of delivering blood bags using drones as part of its i-Drone initiative.



❖ Key Highlights:

- The i-DRONE, initially utilized during the COVID-19 pandemic for vaccine distribution to **remote areas**, demonstrated its capability to transport blood and blood-related products requiring low temperatures.
- This groundbreaking validation study involved collaboration between **ICMR, Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), and Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT)**.
- The trial involved the transportation of 10 units of whole blood samples from GIMS to LHMC, using drones in a visual line of sight.
- The experiment confirmed the maintenance of the required temperature and the absence of damage to the transported products.



- This initiative aims to map challenges and identify possible solutions through research and technological advancements.
- The study's findings will provide scientific evidence from India regarding the **impact of drone transportation on blood products**.
- This research will contribute to the development of **standardized operating procedures (SOPs)** for the widespread use of drones in delivering blood bags and components.

News in Between the Lines

IMF's Regional Economic Outlook

❖ Context

- According to the **IMF's Regional Economic Outlook**, economies in the Middle East and Central Asia are expected to experience slower growth this year due to high inflation and rising interest rates.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Factors such as increased energy costs and elevated food prices contribute to this deceleration. The oil-dependent Gulf Arab states have benefited from high crude prices, while Pakistan's growth has been hampered by devastating floods.

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- The IMF warns that global financial conditions will tighten, especially impacting countries with heavy debts.
- **Economic slowdown:** The IMF predicts a decline in regional growth from 5.3% to 3.1% this year, with persistent inflation at **14.8%**. Pakistan's inflation rate is projected to more than double to **about 27%**.
- The IMF warns of tightening financial conditions worldwide, triggered by bank failures in the **United States and the collapse of Credit Suisse**.
- These events will particularly impact heavily **indebted nations**. Rising interest rates implemented by central banks to combat inflation will further affect these countries.
- **Impact on high-debt nations:** High-debt countries face challenges due to global interest rate increases and tighter monetary policies.

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)



❖ Context

- Recently, **Financial Stability and Development Council** meeting was held in Delhi.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The meeting was held under the **chairpersonship of Finance Minister**.
- This is the **27th meeting** of the Financial Stability and Development Council.
- This would be the first meeting of the FSDC after the passage of the Budget 2023-24.

❖ Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

- It is the **apex level forum** set up by the Government in **December 2010**.
- Its objective was to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development. **Finance Minister** is the Chairman of FSDC.
- **RBI Governor** is the Chairperson of FSDC subcommittee.
- Its members includes **heads of financial regulators - RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC, Finance secretary and/or Secretary (DEA), Secretary (Department of Financial services) and Chief Economic Adviser**.
- **Side Note** : Global Financial Stability Report is released by the IMF.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)



❖ Context

- Recently, Tte National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved shifting three tigresses from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR) to two other state reserves.

❖ About NTCA:

- **NTCA is a statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. It was **established in 2005** following the **recommendations of the Tiger Task Force**. It was constituted under enabling provisions of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006**, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it. It is the apex body that administers 'Project Tiger'.
- The NTCA conducts a **country-level assessment of the status of tigers**, co-predators, prey, and habitat once **every four years**, using the Tiger Task Force-approved methodology

El Ghriba Synagogue



❖ Context

- Recently, Six people have been killed after an attack near a synagogue on Tunisia's Djerba island that draws hundreds of Jews from Europe and Israel during an annual pilgrimage each year.

❖ Key Highlights:

- The El Ghriba Synagogue is situated in the **village of Hara Sghira, near the town of Erriadh, on the island of Djerba in Tunisia**.
- Djerba is located off the **coast of southern Tunisia** in the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- The El Ghriba Synagogue is believed to be one of the oldest synagogues in the world, with a **rich history** dating back over **2,000 years**. It is considered a sacred site for **Jewish pilgrimage** and an important center of Jewish heritage in North Africa.
- **Architectural Features:** The El Ghriba Synagogue features a unique blend of architectural styles influenced by various periods, including Byzantine, Moorish, and Jewish traditions. The interior is adorned with intricate tiles, decorative motifs, and religious symbols.

MCQ Quiz

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