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Daily Current Affairs



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Judicial reform

Judge to Population Ratio: The judge-population ratio in the country is not very appreciable.

- While for the other countries, the ratio is about 50-70 judges per million people, in India it is 20 judges per million heads.
- Although it is an increase from 12 judges per million people in the past, it does not make us anywhere close to an affordable judicial system.

Involvement of Technology: It is only since the pandemic that the court proceedings have started to take place virtually too, earlier the role of technology in the judiciary was not much larger.

Recruitment Delays: The posts in the judiciary are not filled up as expeditiously as required.

- India is a country with a population of more than 135 million and total strength of judges with only around 25000.
 - Almost 400 posts are vacant (40%) in the high courts.
 - Around 35% of the posts are lying vacant in the lower judiciary.
 - However, there are not too many vacancies in the Supreme Court. The total number is 34 with only 2-3 vacancies.

Procedural Delays: Frequent adjournments are granted by the courts to the advocates which leads to unnecessary delays in justice.

High Pendency of Cases: The total pendency of cases in the several courts of India at different levels, sums up to a total of about 3.7 crores thus increasing the demand of a better and improved judicial system.

Some initiatives

'FASTER', an abbreviation of 'Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records', a digital platform was formally launched by Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana.

Mechanisms such as ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution), Lok Adalats, Gram Nyayalayas

Judicial reforms

The Joint Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held after a gap of six years on Saturday has helped to highlight important issues being faced by the judiciary. Issues like backlog of pending cases, judicial vacancies, and poor infrastructure were raised in the conference which was also attended by the Prime Minister and the Law Minister. The Prime Minister made a strong pitch for the use of local languages in the courts and explaining laws in simpler terms. The need to do away with outdated laws to make the delivery of justice easier and that the States had a lot to do so in this regard was highlighted in the conference. In 2015, the Centre had identified about 1,800 laws that had become irrelevant. Of these, 1,450 such laws have been repealed by the Centre, but only 75 such laws have been abolished by the States. Ambiguous legislations provide more scope for litigation. Chief Justice of India NV Ramana had pointed out that the Judiciary, Executive and Legislature must work together to tackle the judiciary pendency problem. The statistics paint a grim picture. There are over 4.5 crore pending cases across all courts in India as of September 15, 2021. The delays in justice delivery end up favouring the illegal actions of one party while prolonging the violation of rights of the other.

The problem of piling backlog of pending cases will continue to persist as judicial vacancies have been on a rise across all levels of judiciary. The CJI had pointed out that there were 16 per cent more vacant judges' offices in 2022 than there had been in 2016 when the last conference was held. The Government along with the concerned Constitutional authorities must take proactive steps to fill up the existing vacancies of judges not only in the High Courts, but in other courts as well. Until that is done, justice will continue to elude those who have approached the courts, as justice delayed is justice denied. It's an irony that over the decades, infrastructure for the judiciary did not get the attention which it deserved. Without proper infrastructure, it becomes quite difficult not only for those who approach the courts but even for the judiciary to dispense justice. And the poor infrastructure has compounded the huge backlog of cases pending in different courts across the country. To deal with the infrastructure, the conference passed a resolution to create a National Judicial Infrastructure Authority of India along with complementary State bodies for creation of judicial infrastructure. The issues raised in the conference must be addressed on a priority basis to remove the problems being faced by the judiciary.



Radicalisation

! It is a process in which an individual or group (social, economic or political etc.) develops extremist beliefs, emotions, and behaviours gradually through multiple pathways against the existing social order.

Forms of Radicalism in India

Politico-Religious Radicalism: It is associated with a political interpretation of religion and the defence, by violent means, of a religious identity perceived to be under attack.

- Use of Religion by ISIS to spread its influence all over the world is an example.

Right-Wing Radicalism: It is a form of radicalization associated with fascism, racialism/racism, supremacism and ultranationalism.

Left Wing Radicalism: This form of radicalization focuses primarily on anti-capitalist demands and calls for the transformation of political systems considered responsible for producing social inequalities, and that may ultimately employ violent means to further its cause.

Radical outfits consider India major enemy

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, May 1: The radical terrorist groups now consider India as their major enemy, while, the states of Assam and West Bengal are vulnerable because of the long porous international border and availability of shelters. That is why, repeated attempts have been made by such outfits to set up bases in these states but fortunately, the modules of those terror groups have been busted on time.

Highly placed security sources told *The Assam Tribune* that the pan Islamic terror groups received a major morale booster after the Taliban took over power

Attempts being made to set up bases in Assam, West Bengal

in Afghanistan and they are desperately trying to augment their activities in the Indian subcontinent.

The radical terror organisations consider India along with the United States and some other Western countries as their major enemy, but fortunately, so far, they have not been able to cause any major damage to the country in recent times. Of course, there have been attempts but the security

agencies have been able to take preemptive actions to foil their attempts.

The biggest threat is that the terror groups now do not have to set up a large institutional mechanism in any part of the country to radicalize the minds of the people and they extensively use cyberspace. Internet is now available even to the remotest villages of India and radical groups take advantage of it to brainwash people. Such outfits often give a wrong interpretation of the Quran to influence youths to join the jihad. Such outfits do not follow any country boundary and for them, anyone who is a "non-believer of Islam" is an enemy.

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Some Steps Taken in India

- Institutional:** The Ministry of Home Affairs had set up the Counter-Terrorism and Counter Radicalisation division in November 2017
- Legislative Actions:** Some acts such as Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), NIA Act, 2008 deals with the associated issues.

Mizo activist files **PIL** for CBI probe into areca nut smuggling

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 1: A noted social activist of Aizawl, Vanramchhuangi, has moved the Gauhati High Court, seeking a CBI probe into the "rampant smuggling" of areca nuts from Myanmar through Mizoram.

Vanramchhuangi, popularly known with her pen name 'Ruatfela Nu', said that the "inaction" of the Mizoram

government had forced her to file the PIL.

She submitted the PIL to the Aizawl bench of the high court on April 29.

The PIL mentioned that the smugglers were evading taxes and a CBI probe should be ordered to eradicate the problems faced by areca nut farmers due to smuggling.

"I have filed an FIR at a police station in the Indo-Myanmar border town of Champhai

regarding this illegal business which has affected the economic situation of the state, but it was not accepted," she said.

Prior to that, she had submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister which "did not bear any positive result".

Last year, Vanramchhuangi also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the Centre's intervention to stop smuggling of dried areca nuts

from Southeast Asian countries through Champhai and Lawngtlai districts of Mizoram which shares border with Myanmar.

Vanramchhuangi alleged that the Mizoram government gives 'Place of Origin' credentials to dried areca nuts smuggled through the India-Myanmar border from various Southeast Asian countries.

The "contraband" is then categorised under GST head-

ing 0802 and levied 5 per cent GST, she claimed.

She alleged that smugglers use at least 40 routes in Champhai alone to transport their goods.

She believed that a memorandum to the Prime Minister had some positive results.

"I believe the Assam government's crackdown on areca nut smugglers was the result of my memorandum to the Prime Minister," she said.

Public interest Litigation (PIL)

- Public interest Litigation (PIL) means litigation filed in a court of law, for the protection of "Public Interest".
- The chief objective behind PILs is ensuring justice to all and promoting the welfare of the people.
- The concept of PILs stems from the power of judicial review.
- The Supreme Court of India and the High Courts have the right to issue PILs.
- The concept of PILs has diluted the principle of locus standi, which implies that only the person/party whose rights have been infringed upon can file petitions,
- PILs been responsible for some landmark judgements in India such as the banning of the triple talaq, opening up of the doors of the Sabarimala temple etc.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large, sprawling garbage dump. A yellow bulldozer is visible on the right side, working on the pile of trash. The sky is hazy and grey.

Garbage Free Cities

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the **‘National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities’**.
- **Launched by:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**
- **Aim:** To strengthen the ongoing Jan Andolan for ‘Garbage Free Cities’.
- **Purpose:** The framework serves as a guiding document and blueprint for States and Cities to undertake large scale multimedia campaigns along with intensive and focused interpersonal communication campaigns.



Atal New India Challenge 2.0 (ANIC 2.0)

- Atal Innovation Mission has launched the phase 1 of the 2nd edition of the Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0)
- Atal New India Challenge is a **flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog.**
- **Aim:** To seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
- **Goal:** To support innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth – Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Housing, Energy, Mobility, and Space Application among others.

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE

Prachya Sasanvali was edited by

- A. Dr. Maheswar Neog
- B. Dr. Birinchi Kumar Barua
- C. Dr. Surya Kummar Bhuyan
- D. Gunabhiram Barua

The Correct Answer is: **A. Dr. Maheswar Neog**
Prachya Sansanvali is "an anthology of Royal Charters, etc. inscribed on stone, copper etc. of Kamrupa, Assam, Jayantiapur, Koch-Bihar Etc. from 1205 A.D. to 1847 A.D." compiled by *Dr. Maheswar Neog*.

Daily MCQ for APSC CCE

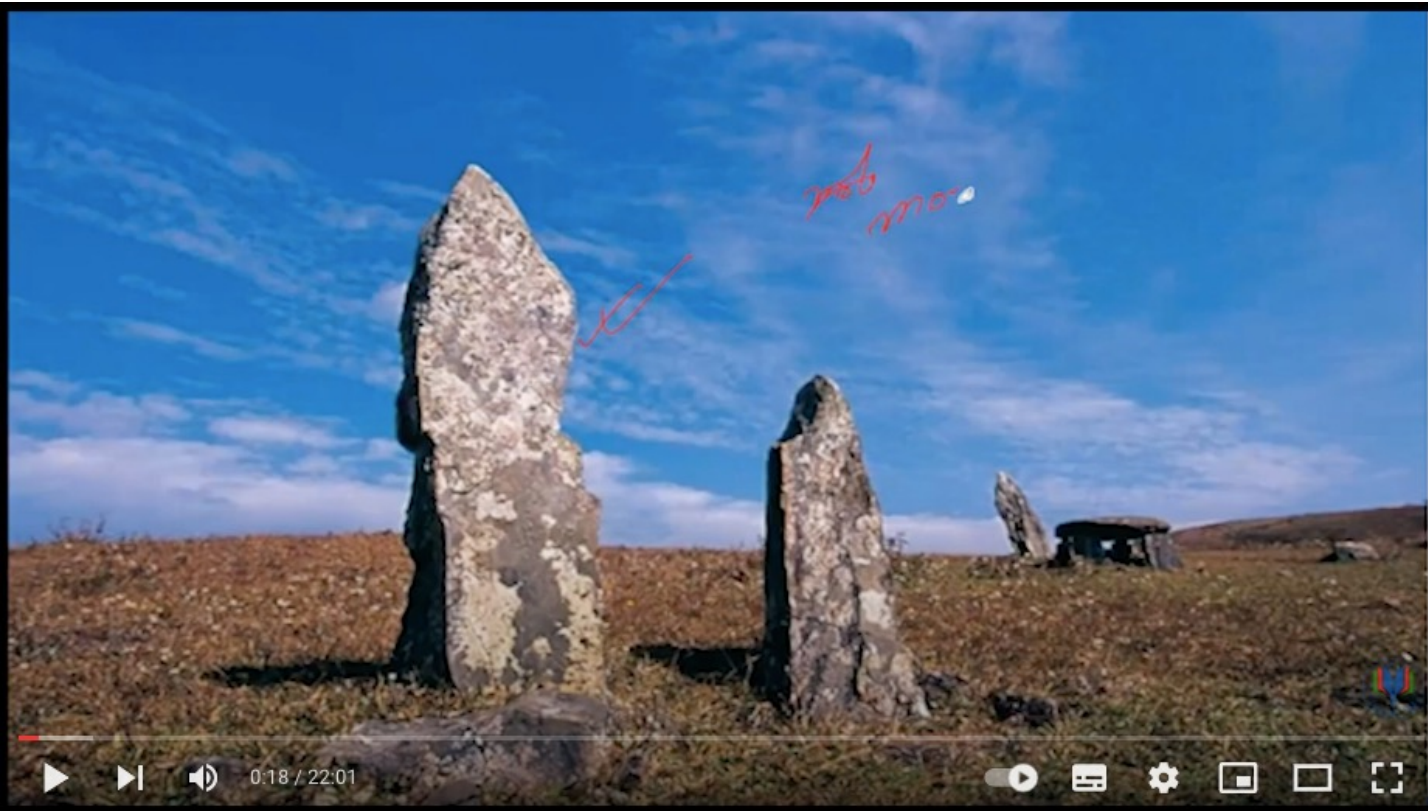
Recently seen in the news Dapivirine, is

- A. Covid-19 Vaccine
- B. Antiretroviral drug
- C. Vaccine for Malaria
- D. Ebola drug

The Correct Answer is: **B. Antiretroviral Drug**

World Health Organization has recently recommended the Dapivirine ring as a new choice for HIV prevention for women at substantial risk of HIV infection. The ring delivers an antiretroviral drug called *Dapivirine* to help protect against HIV at the site of potential infection.

Assam-Centric Current Affairs: Megalithic Structures in Assam



Click here to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/lqiqm782lRI>