

Governor of State

❖ Context

- Recently, The Centre announced that twelve states and the Union Territory of Ladakh will have new Governors.
- This includes both first-time appointments as well as transfers of Governors from one state to the other.

❖ About Governor

- Alike the centre in India, the state also has a bit of governance system.
- The head of the state is the governor and the executive power of the state is vested in him.
- There are **two types of governor in India** :
 - The Governors that exist in states.
 - Lieutenant-Governors/Administrators that exist in Union Territories and in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- **Appointment of Governor :**
 - **Article 155** says that the "Governor of a State shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal".
 - Under **Article 156**, "the Governor shall hold office during the pleasure of the President".
- **Conventions that have developed while appointing a governor.**
 - He should not be from a state where he is appointed
 - While appointing the governor, the president is required to consult the CM of the state concerned.
- **Term :** His normal term of office will be **five years.**
 - If the President withdraws her pleasure before the completion of 5 years, the Governor has to step down.
 - The constitution has not laid down any grounds for the removal of the governor by president.
- **Oath :** The Governor has to make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation.
 - Oath is **administered by the Chief Justice of the concerned State's High Court** and in his/her absence, the senior-most judge of that court available.

- **Qualifications : Articles 157 and 158** lay down the qualifications of the Governor and the conditions of his office.

- The Governor must be a citizen of India and should have completed the age of 35 years.
- The Governor should not be a member of Parliament or a state legislature.
- He must not hold any other office of profit.

❖ Powers of Governor

- The Governor of the state shall possess **executive, legislative, financial and judicial powers.**
- But he does **not possess diplomatic, military or emergency powers** which President of India has.

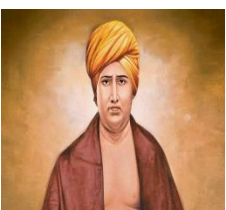
❖ Other Related Articles to Governor

- **Article 153:** There shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
- **Article 160:** Discharge of the functions of the Governor in certain contingencies.
- **Article 161:** Power of the Governor to grant pardons and others.
- **Article 162:** Extent of executive power of state
- **Article 163:** There is a CoM with the CM at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except some conditions for discretion.
- **Article 159:** Oath or affirmation by the Governor
- **Article 200:** Governor assents, withholds assent, or reserves the bill for the consideration of the President passed by the Legislative Assembly.
- **Article 213:** Governor may promulgate the **Ordinances** under certain circumstances.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati

❖ Context

- Recently, PM of India inaugurated the year-long celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in the national capital.



❖ About Swami Dayananda Saraswati

- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was **born** as Mool Shankar Tiwari on **February 12, 1824**, in Gujarat.
- **Contribution :**
 - Dayananda Saraswati was an **Indian philosopher, social leader, and reform movement** of the Vedic dharma.
 - The Arya Samaj **opposes caste system** based on birth rather than on merit, untouchability, child marriage, pilgrimages, priesthood and temple offerings.
 - He was the one who first **gave the call for Swaraj as "India for Indians" in 1876**, a call later taken up by Lokmanya Tilak.
 - One of his most influential works is the book **Satyarth Prakash** (means The Light of Truth) , which contributed to the Indian independence movement.
 - His followers included **Sri Aurobindo and S. Radhakrishnan.**

• Philosophy :

- He believed in the **infallible authority of the Vedas.**
- He **advocated the doctrine of Karma and Reincarnation.**
- He **emphasized the Vedic ideals** of Brahmacharya, including celibacy and devotion to God.
- **Founded the Arya Samaj** on April 7, 1875. Through this reform movement, he stressed on One God and rejected idol worship.
- He also **advocated against the the extolled position** of priests in Hinduism.

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Assam Crackdown on Child Marriage

❖ Context

- Over 2,000 men in a state-wide crackdown on child marriages have been arrested in Assam. Those arrested have been booked under the provisions of the stringent **POCSO Act** and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

❖ Under What Law are The Arrests Being Made?

- Assam's Chief Minister has said that while men who married girls below 14 years of age would be booked under the Protection of Children From Sexual Offences Act,
- Those marrying girls between 14 and 18 years would be booked under the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act**.

❖ The POCSO Act:

- **The POCSO Act, of 2012** criminalises sex between a minor and an adult. The law does not recognize a minor's consent as valid.
- Sexual assault under POCSO is a **non-bailable, cognisable offence**. This means that the police can make an **arrest without warrant**.
- So a **presumption** of sexual assault is being made in case of child marriage involving minor girls below the age of 14.
- Sexual assault, that is not penetrative, carries a **minimum imprisonment of three years** that may extend to five years with a fine.

❖ The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006:

- The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 says that child marriages **are illegal but not void**.
- Instead, they are voidable at the option of the minor party, in the scenario that the minor petitions the court to declare the marriage void.
- **The Act stipulates** 18 years as the minimum marriageable age for women, while for men it is 21 years. The Act punishes child marriage with "rigorous imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

❖ What Is The Debate On Muslim Age Of Marriage?

- **Under Muslim personal laws**, the marriage of a bride who has attained puberty is considered. Puberty is presumed, in the absence of evidence, on completion of the age of fifteen years.
- **This gap** between Muslim personal law and special legislations prohibiting child marriages or sexual activity of minors puts a Shadow on Criminality on Such Marriages.

❖ What Have The Courts Said On The Issue?

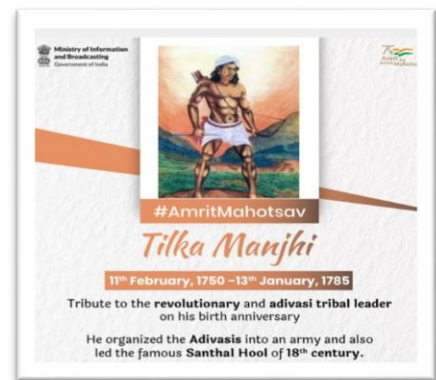
- The Supreme Court is currently examining this issue since different High Courts have ruled differently on it
- A bench led by CJI Chandrachud agreed to hear an appeal against a 2022 decision of the **Punjab & Haryana High Court** which allowed a 16-and-a-half-year-old Muslim girl to marry a person of her choice after attaining puberty.
- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has filed the appeal. NCPCR **challenged the High Court's ruling on grounds that personal laws can't override special penal statutes**.

❖ What Is the Central Government's Stand?

- **In 2021**, the Central government sought to introduce the **Prevention of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2021**, to raise the manageable age for women across all religions, from 18 to 21 years.
- However, the Parliament panel examining this is **yet to submit its report**, after receiving an extension in October 2022.
- In December 2021, **Union Minister for Women and Child Development** said that the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, **will apply to all communities** in the country and, once enacted, will supersede existing marriage and personal laws.

News in Between the Lines

Tilka Manjhi



❖ Context

- The Nation is remembering revolutionary freedom fighter and **tribal leader Tilka Manjhi on his 273rd birth anniversary**.

❖ About Tilka Manjhi:

- In 1770, there was a severe famine in the Santhal region and people were dying of hunger. **Tilka Manjhi looted the treasury of the Company** and distributed it among the poor and needy.
- He organized Adivasis into an army and led the **famous Santhal Hool in 1784** against the exploitative British.
- Inspired by this noble act of Tilka, **many other tribals also joined the rebellion**. With this began his Santhal Hool, the revolt of the Santhals.
- **Tilka Manjhi attacked Augustus Cleveland**, an East India Company administrator and fatally wounded him.
- Tilka Manjhi **never surrendered** but was later caught and hung from a Banyan Tree.

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Mission Bhashini



❖ Context

- 'Bhashini,' is one of those initiatives which the **Govt. of India** added at the Digital India Week 2022 event in Gandhinagar during taking up several digital economy initiatives.

❖ About Mission Bhashini

- **Nodal Ministry-** The Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- This is a local language translation mission that **aims to break the barrier between various Indian tongues by using available technology.**
- This online platform also has a separate '**Bhasadaan**' section which allows individuals to contribute to multiple crowdsourcing initiatives.
- The **contribution can be done in four ways** - Suno India, Likho India, Bolo India and Dekho India - where users have to type what they hear or have to validate texts transcribed by others.
- This government platform aims to make **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP)** resources available in the public domain to be used by -- Indian MSMEs, startups and individual innovators.
- This will help developers to offer all Indians easy access to the internet and digital services in their native languages.
- **Side Note** : According to Census 2001, India has 22 official languages, 122 major languages and 1599 other languages.
 - The **National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)** was announced in the 2021-22 budget by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Forever Chemicals



❖ Context

- Recently, An **Oxford University-led study** found **alarming levels of toxic PFAS**, also known as "**forever chemicals**" in the ice around Svalbard, Norway which pose a risk to the region's wildlife.

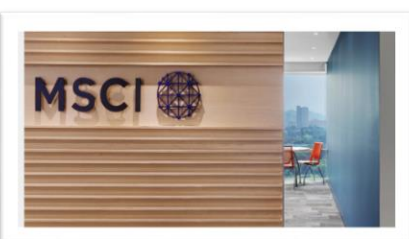
❖ Key Highlights

- The Norwegian Arctic ice consists of 26 types of PFAS compounds which once the ice melts can be passed to ecosystems like Arctic fjords and tundra.
- High levels of PFAs have been found in the polar bear's bloodstream.

❖ About Forever Chemicals

- The PFAS (Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) refer to a class of around 12,000 chemicals which are often found in consumer products which resist water, heat or stains.
- They are called "forever chemicals" since they do not naturally break down over time.
- These chemicals are linked to a number of **diseases** including cancer, liver disease, etc.
- These contaminants, once passed on, can affect the entire food web from small organisms like plankton or fish to apex predators in the region like polar bears.
- A 2021 study has found that PFAS chemicals are being used in disposable food packaging from popular fast-food chains, takeaway restaurants, and supermarkets across Europe.
- **Regulation** : Currently, three sub-group of PFAS are listed in the **The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.**
 - The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international treaty aiming to eliminate or restrict the production and use of the most toxic chemicals of global concern.

Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI)



❖ Context

- Recently, **Global index provider MSCI** changed its weightage for four Adani Group stocks.

❖ About (Morgan Stanley Capital International) MSCI

- MSCI is **owned by the multinational investment management and financial services company Morgan Stanley.**
- It is a leading provider of critical decision support tools, including stock indexes, and services for the global investment community.
- It **has over 160,000 indexes in its portfolio.**
- MSCI indices are tracked by investors globally, who allocate funds based on weightage given to countries and stocks.

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AMRITPEX 2023



❖ Context

➤ Recently, The Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways inaugurated **AMRITPEX 2023 - National Philatelic Exhibition**.

❖ Key Highlights

- **AMRITPEX 2023** is being organised by the Department of Posts.
- AMRITPEX is the national platform to highlight and display the 5000 years old rich history and culture of this great nation.

- **Themes of AMRITPEX 2023-** Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Women Power, Youth Power, Nature and Wildlife and Culture and History.
- **Objectives :** It aims to introduce the new generation of Philately.
 - This exhibition will include India's History, Culture, Art & Heritage through stamps.
 - The exhibition for the first time in India has a number of technology artifacts like **Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality**.

Vice-President duties as Rajya Sabha Chairman



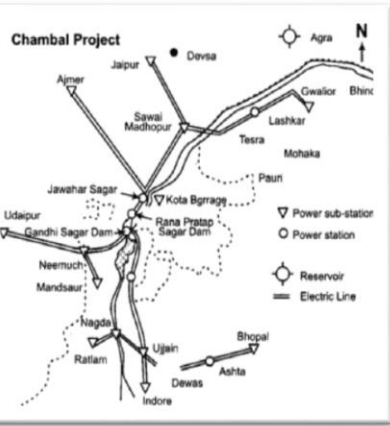
❖ Context

➤ **The Vice President** conducts proceedings in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament.

❖ Powers and Functions of Chairman:

- The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Vice-President "is the **unchallenged guardian of the prestige and dignity of the House**". He is also the principal spokesman of the House and represents the collective voice to the outside world.
- **He ensures that the proceedings** of the House are conducted in accordance with the relevant constitutional provisions, rules, practices and convention
- As part of his duties, he "**ensures that Members' rights** of asking questions and receiving complete replies is well enforced and gives rulings on privilege matters and other procedural points".
- The Chairman is **not bound to give reasons** for his decisions. The Chairman's rulings **cannot be questioned or criticised** and to protest against the ruling of the Chairman is contempt of the House.

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project



❖ Context

➤ The Rajasthan government has allocated funds for the **Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project in the state Budget** but wants the Centre to share the cost of the project.

❖ What Is The Aim Of The ERCP?

- According to the state Water Resources Department, Rajasthan's geographical area of 342.52 lakh hectares equals 10.4 percent of the entire country but holds **only 1.16% of India's surface water and 1.72% of groundwater**.

The Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project aims to harvest surplus water available during the rainy season in rivers in southern Rajasthan, such as the **Chambal and its tributaries Kunnu, Parvati, & Kalisindh**, and use it in the water-scarce south-eastern districts of the state.

- Among the state's water bodies, only the Chambal river basin has surplus water, but this water cannot be tapped directly because the area around the **Kota barrage** is designated as a **crocodile sanctuary**.
- Through the help of diversion structures, intra-basin water transfers, linking channels, and building pumping main feeder channels, **the ERCP aims to create a network** of water channels that will cover 23.67% of the area and 41.13% of the population of the state.

Mammalian Spread Of H5N1



❖ Context

➤ Recent reports of **H5N1 transmission between mammals** raise concerns about its potential to cause a human pandemic.

❖ Key Highlights:

- Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a highly contagious viral infection that primarily affects birds. Infrequently, the virus can infect mammals from birds, a **phenomenon called spillover**, and rarely can spread between mammals.
- **The H5N1 subtype** has the potential to spill over to other mammals such as minks, ferrets, seals and domestic cats when the animals come in contact with infected birds or their feces or consume carcasses of infected birds and further serve as reservoirs.
- It is also possible that over time, the virus could evolve through mutations or **recombination with other influenza** viruses to adapt to new hosts, leading to further outbreaks.
- Recently, scientists have been investigating a potential mammalian spillover event after a mass mortality event which killed **over 700 seals along Russia's Caspian Sea coast** where a H5N1 variant was detected in wild birds.

MCQ Quiz

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