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# IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR PRELIMS VOL 28

- ASSAM ACCORD
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION TAG
- NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ACT 1985
- CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)
- RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS
- CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY
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SCAN TO EXPLORE





**IMPORTANT CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**FOR PRELIMS VOL - 28**

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**INDIAN POLITY****1) ASSAM ACCORD**

**IN NEWS:** - The Assam government on Saturday set up an eight-member sub-committee to examine and prepare a framework for the implementation of all clauses of the Assam Accord of 1985.

**ABOUT ASSAM ACCORD**

- The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed by the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement.
- The movement demanded the identification and deportation of all illegal foreigners – predominantly Bangladeshi immigrants.
- They feared that past and continuing large scale migration was overwhelming the native population, impacting their political rights, culture, language and land rights.
- The Assam Movement caused the estimated death of over 855 people.
- It ended with the signing of the Assam Accord in 1985.

**2) RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS**

**IN NEWS:** - The Supreme Court (SC) refused to lay down the “yardstick” for determining the inadequacy of representation for granting reservation in promotions for Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates in government jobs.

**ABOUT RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS**

- The Central and the State Government since the 1950s have been following a policy of reserving seats in promotions in favor of SC and ST communities on the ground that they are not adequately represented at the decision making level of public services.
- Indra Sawhney Case 1992: This policy was held to be unconstitutional and void by the SC in Indra Sawhney v. Union Of India 1992 case on the ground that under Article 16(4) the State is provided with the power to make

reservations in favour of backward classes of citizens only at the entry level that is at the time of recruitment into public services but not subsequently.

- The Parliament responded by enacting the 77th Constitutional Amendment Act which introduced Article 16(4A).
- M Nagaraj Case 2006: In this case applying the creamy layer concept in SC/ST reservation in promotions, the SC reversed its earlier stance in the Indra Sawhney case (1992), in which it had excluded the creamy layer concept on SCs/STs (that was applicable on OBCs).
- The SC had upheld the Constitutional amendments by which Articles 16 (4A) and 16 (4B) were inserted, saying they flow from Article 16 (4) and do not alter its structure. It also laid down three conditions for promotion of SCs and STs in public employment.
  - The SC and ST community should be socially and educationally backward.
  - The SC and ST communities are not adequately represented in Public employment.
  - Such a reservation policy shall not affect the overall efficiency in the administration.
- The court held that the government cannot introduce a quota in promotion for its SC/ST employees unless it proves that the particular community was backward, inadequately represented and providing reservation in promotion would not affect the overall efficiency of public administration. The opinion of the government should be based on quantifiable data.
- Jarnail Singh Case 2018: Later in 2018, in the Jarnail Singh case, SC modified the Nagaraj judgement to the extent that State need not produce quantifiable data to prove the “backwardness” of a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe community in order to provide quota in promotion in public employment.

- The court had given a huge fillip to the government's efforts to provide "accelerated promotion with consequential seniority" for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) members in government services.

### **Constitutional Provisions for Promotion in Reservation**

- Article 16 (4): Provides that the State can make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens who, in the opinion of the state, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.
- Article 16 (4A): Provides that the State can make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State.

### **3) NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ACT 1985**

**IN NEWS:** - The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed by Lok Sabha.

### **ABOUT NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ACT 1985**

- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, commonly referred to as the NDPS Act was promulgated in 1985.
- It prohibits a person from the production/manufacturing/cultivation, possession, sale, purchasing, transport, storage, and/or consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance
- The 2021 Bill amends the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and seeks to rectify a drafting "anomaly" created by a 2014 amendment to the parent legislation.
- It contains a legislative declaration about what one section refers to.
- It says Section 2 clause viii(a) corresponds to clause viii(b) in Section 27, since 2014 when the provision was first brought in.

- Section 27A of the NDPS Act, 1985, prescribes the punishment for financing illicit traffic and harbouring offenders.
- In 2014, a substantial amendment was made to the NDPS Act to allow for better medical access to narcotic drugs.
- It defined “essential drugs”; under Section 9 and allowed the manufacture, possession, transport, import inter-State, export inter-State, sale, purchase, consumption and use of essential narcotic drugs.
- But before the 2014 amendment, a Section 2(viii)a already existed and contained a catalogue of offences for which the punishment is prescribed in Section 27A.
- Section 27A reads: Whoever indulges in financing, directly or indirectly or harbours any person engaged in any of the aforementioned activities, shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment.
- The term shall not be less than ten years and may extend to twenty years.
- The accused shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may extend to two lakh rupees.
- While defining “essential drugs” in 2014, the legislation re-numbered Section 2.
- The catalogue of offences, originally listed under Section 2(viii)a, was now under Section 2(viii)b.
- In the amendment, Section 2(viii)a defined essential narcotic drugs.
- However, the drafters missed amending the enabling provision in Section 27A to change Section 2(viii)a to Section 2(viii)b.

#### **4) CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)**

**IN NEWS:** - A Supreme Court bench has referred a case, in which the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) had filed an affidavit on the withdrawal of ‘general consent’ to the CBI by several States, for consideration of the Chief Justice of India. West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand,

Chhattisgarh and Mizoram have withdrawn consent to the CBI for launching investigations in their territory.

### **ABOUT CONSENT GIVEN BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT**

- Legal and Constitutional Basis: According to Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act of 1946 under which the CBI functions, the State's consent is required to extend CBI investigation beyond Union Territories.
- The legal foundation of the CBI has been construed to be based on Entry 80 of the Union List which provides for the extension of powers of the police force belonging to one State to any area in another State but not without its permission.
- "Police" is Entry 2 in the State List under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- Types of Consent: There are two types of consent for a probe by the CBI.
  - General Consent: When a state gives a general consent (Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case. A general consent is given to facilitate that seamless investigation in a case of corruption or violence.
  - Specific Consent: When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government. If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state. This hurdle impedes seamless investigation by the CBI.

### **CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI)**

- The CBI was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Now, the CBI comes under the administrative control of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The establishment of the CBI was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962–1964).
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- The CBI is the main investigating agency of the Central Government.
- It also provides assistance to the Central Vigilance Commission and Lokpal.
- It is also the nodal police agency in India which coordinates investigations on behalf of Interpol Member countries.

## INDIAN ECONOMY

### 5) GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION TAG

**IN NEWS:** - In Tamil Nadu, the Karuppur kalamkari paintings and the Kallakurichi wood carvings recently received the geographical indication (GI) tags.

#### ABOUT GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION TAG

- A GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- Nodal Agency: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 w.e.f. September 2003.
- GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- GI is granted for a term of 10 years in India. As of today, more than 300 GI tags has been allocated so far in India



- The tag stands valid for 10 years.

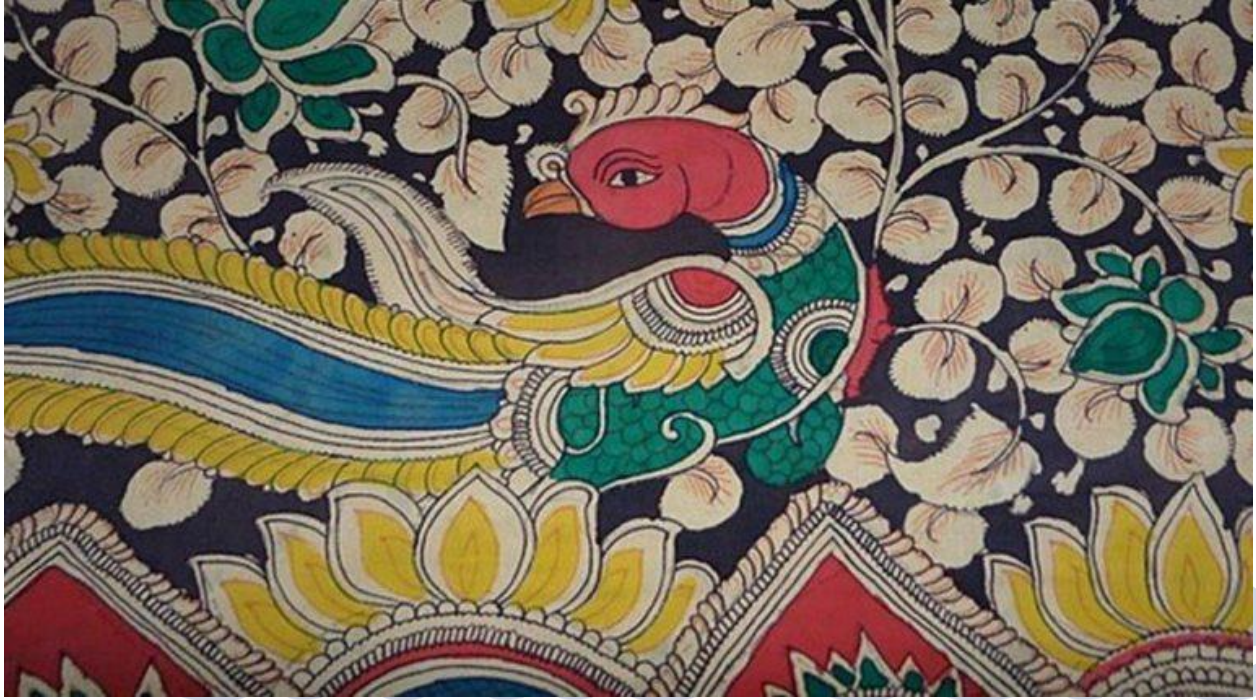
### **KALLAKURICHI WOOD CARVINGS**

- The Kallakurichi wood carvings are a unique form of wood carving practiced in Tamil Nadu.
- It involves the application of ornamentation and designs, derived from traditional styles by the craftsmen.
- They are mainly practiced in Kallakurichi, Chinnasalem and Thirukkovilur taluks of Kallakurichi district.



### **KARUPPUR KALAMKARI PAINTINGS**

- Kalamkari paintings are done on pure cotton cloth, predominantly used in temples for umbrella covers, cylindrical hangings, chariot covers and asmanagiri (false ceiling cloth pieces).
- Documentary evidence shows that kalamkari paintings evolved under the patronage of Nayaka rulers in the early 17th century.



## PRACTICE QUESTION IAS Study Circle

Consider the following statements

1. The Kallakurichi wood carvings are a unique form of wood carving practiced in Andhra Pradesh
2. It was awarded GI tag

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

**Answer: - b**

## ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

**6) CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY**

**IN NEWS:** - A virtual two-day CAF 'range countries' meeting was held recently.

**ABOUT CENTRAL ASIAN FLYWAY**

A Flyway is a geographical region within which a single or a group of migratory species completes its annual cycle – breeding, moulting, staging and non-breeding.

**Central Asian Flyway**

- CAF covers a large area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans.
- Including India, there are 30 countries under the Central Asian Flyway.
- It involves migration routes of waterbirds, extending from the northernmost breeding grounds in Siberia to the southernmost non-breeding wintering grounds in West Asia, India, the Maldives and British Indian Ocean Territory.
- These wintering areas are geographically separate and present entirely different ecological, historical and cultural situations.

**PRACTICE QUESTION**

Consider the followings statements

1. There are over 100 countries under the Central Asian Flyway
2. These wintering areas are geographically separate and present entirely different ecological, historical and cultural situations.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

**Answer: - b**

## 7) HIGH AMBITION COALITION FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

**IN NEWS:** - India joined the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People. India is the first of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC.

### ABOUT HIGH AMBITION COALITION FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

- It is an intergovernmental group championing a global deal for nature and people that can halt the accelerating loss of species, and protect vital ecosystems that are the source of our economic security.
- It was launched in 2019 by Costa Rica, France and Britain.
- It is co-chaired by Costa Rica and France and the Ocean co-chair belongs to the United Kingdom.
- Its aim is to promote an international agreement to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (Global 30×30 target).
- It also aims to manage the planet sustainably with no net loss of natural habitats, supported by a circular economy, and strives for the sustainable and equitable sharing of benefits from nature.
- It has more than 70 countries which are a mix of countries in the global north and south, European, Latin American, Africa and Asia countries are among the members.

## 8) COMMISSION FOR CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)

**IN NEWS:** - India has extended support for protecting the Antarctic environment and for co-sponsoring the proposal of the European Union for designating East Antarctica and the Weddell Sea as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) at a high-level ministerial meeting.

## **ABOUT COMMISSION FOR CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)**

- It is an international treaty to manage Antarctic fisheries with the goal of preserving species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem.
- The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was established in 1982.
- It was established in response to concerns that increasing krill fishing activities could have a deleterious impact on the Southern Ocean ecosystem.
- It is an international treaty between 25 nations that seeks to manage Antarctic fisheries with the goal of preserving species diversity and stability of the entire Antarctic marine ecosystem.
- Although the aim of the Convention is to conserve marine life of the Southern Ocean, it does not prohibit reasonable harvesting.
- India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986. Work pertaining to the CCAMLR is coordinated in India by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through its attached office, the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) in Kochi, Kerala.
- It is part of the Antarctic Treaty System.

## **ABOUT MARINE PROTECTED AREA**

- An MPA is a marine protected area that provides protection for all or part of its natural resources.
- Certain activities within an MPA are limited or prohibited to meet specific conservation, habitat protection, ecosystem monitoring, or fisheries management objectives.
- Since 2009, CCAMLR members have developed proposals for MPAs for various regions of the Southern Ocean.

**PRACTICE QUESTION**

Consider the following statements

1. India has been a permanent member of the CCAMLR since 1986.
2. The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was established in 1982.
3. It is part of the Antarctic Treaty System.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. All of the above

**Answer: - d**

**9) NET ZERO CONCEPT IN CLIMATE CHANGE**

**IN NEWS:** - Independent charitable organization Oxfam has said that ‘net zero’ carbon targets that many countries have announced may be a “dangerous distraction” from the priority of cutting carbon emissions.

**ABOUT NET ZERO CONCEPT**

- Net-zero, which is also referred to as carbon-neutrality, does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero.
- That would be gross-zero, which means reaching a state where there are no emissions at all, a scenario hard to comprehend.
- Therefore, net-zero is a state in which a country’s emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

**Achieving net-zero targets**

- One way by which carbon can be absorbed is by creating carbon sinks.
- Until recently, the Amazon rainforests in South America, which are the largest tropical forests in the world, were carbon sinks.

- But eastern parts of these forests have started emitting CO<sub>2</sub> instead of absorbing carbon emissions as a result of significant deforestation.

## 10) ONE SUN ONE WORLD ONE GRID (OSOWOG) OR GREEN GRIDS INITIATIVE

**IN NEWS:** - India and the UK are likely to announce a joint declaration on “one sun, one world, one grid” — or OSOWOG at the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP26).

### ABOUT OSOWOG OR GREEN GRIDS INITIATIVE

- The vision behind the OSOWOG is ‘The Sun Never Sets’ and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- This is by far one of the most ambitious schemes undertaken by any country (India) and is of global significance in terms of sharing economic benefits.
- It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.
- The OSOWOG plan may also leverage the International Solar Alliance (ISA), co-founded by India that has 80 countries as members.
- With India in the middle, the solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones, which are:
  - Far East including countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia etc.
  - Far West covering the Middle East and the Africa Region.

- Three Phases of the Plan:
  - First Phase: It will entail interconnectivity within the Asian continent.
  - Second Phase: It will add Africa.
  - Third Phase: It is about global interconnection.

### PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements

1. The vision behind the OSOWOG is 'The Sun Never Sets' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
2. It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.

Which among the above statements are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 or 2

**Answer: - c**





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