



CURRENT AFFAIRS : JULY 2022

RIGHT TO BE FORGOTTEN

Recently, Supreme Court directed its registry to remove details of a couple from search engines and Internet.

- Petitioner contended that her name in the public domain causes embarrassment, social stigma and infringes her privacy.
- Petitioner had raised the 'right to be forgotten (RTBF)' and 'right of eraser' being rights of privacy.
- This direction expands the ambit of right to privacy and RTBF.

About Right to be Forgotten

- RTBF is the right to have publicly available personal information removed from the internet, search, databases, websites, or any other public platforms, once the personal information in question is no longer necessary.

Right to be forgotten (RTF) in India

- In India, there is no law that specifically provides for RTBF. However, the now withdrawn Personal Data Protection Bill (PDPB), 2019 contained provisions related to doctrine of RTBF.
 - o Unlike the GDPR, the Personal Data Protection Bill only provides for prevention of continuing disclosure of personal data and not the deletion of personal data.
- Information Technology Rules, 2011 — which is the current regime governing digital data — also does not have any provisions relating to the RTBF.

Supreme Court on Right to be Forgotten (RTBF)

- In the landmark case of K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, SC recognised RTBF as part of the right to life under Article 21.

• SC had stated that the RTBF was subject to certain restrictions, and that it could not be used if the material in question was required for the:

- o exercise of right to freedom of expression and information.
- o fulfilment of legal responsibilities.
- o execution of a duty in the public interest or public health.
- o protection of information in public interest.
- o for purpose of scientific or historical study, or for statistical purposes;
- o establishment, executing, or defending of legal claims

MODEL TENANCY ACT, 2021

Recently, four States (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam) revised their tenancy laws to be in line with the Model Tenancy Act (MTA).

About Model Tenancy Act (MTA), 2021

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has approved MTA, 2021 to streamline the process of renting property in all State and Union Territory (UTs) and aid rent economy in estate sector.
- o In 2021, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory to adopt the MTA.
- o Since housing is a part of the State List under the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, Model Act is only a suggestive framework (not binding) for states to follow while regulating rental housing and agreements.
- o It replaces existing tenancy provisions of more than 70 years old East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949.
- o As per Census 2011, nearly 1.1 crore houses were lying vacant in country and making these houses available on rent will complement the vision of 'Housing for All' by 2022.

REGISTRATION OF PRESS AND PERIODICALS BILL

Recently, the Government decided to introduce a bill aimed at revising the Press and registration of book act 1867.

- The 1867 act helped governments control the press, regulate book publishing, and inadvertently curb the freedom of speech and expression.
- The printer of every newspaper had to deliver two copies of each issue of such newspaper free of expense to the Government and one copy of each issue to Press Registrar.
- Under the act, the Central Government may appoint a Registrar of newspapers for India. The Press Registrar shall maintain in the prescribed manner a Register of newspapers.
- Every book or paper printed shall have printed legibly on it the name of the printer and the place of printing, name of the publisher, and the place of publication.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

- Under Article 62(1) of the Constitution, an election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of the President shall be completed before the expiration of the term (5 years).

Election Process

- o The President is elected by an electoral college consisting of MPs of both Houses of Parliament and MLAs of the states and Delhi and Puducherry.
- o Nominated members of Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, and members of state Legislative Councils, are not part of the Electoral College.
- o The election is held as per the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.
- o The winning candidate has to secure the required quota of votes to be declared elected, i.e., 50% of valid votes polled +1.
- Anti-defection law is not applicable in the presidential election; thus, electors are not bound to vote along party lines.

- Under Article 324 of the constitution, the Election Commission of India has the authority to conduct the presidential elections.

REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS

- Election Commission (EC) in pursuance of legal amendments in RP Act 1950 and modifications in Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, has initiated following changes
 - o Those above 17 years of age can apply in advance for getting enrolled in voters' list.
 - o Electoral roll will be updated every quarter and eligible youngster can be registered in next quarter of year in which they have attained qualifying age of 18 years.
 - o Optional provision to link Aadhaar details with the form has been added.

DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES (DLSAs)

- PM recently addressed inaugural session of First All India District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) Meet.
- DLSAs are established under Legal Services Authorities Act (LSA), 1987 to:
 - o Provide free legal aid, organize Lok Adalats, Legal literacy camps etc,
 - o Secure that opportunities for securing justice and fundamental rights are not denied to any citizens by reasons of poor economic conditions.
- There are a total of 676 DLSAs in the country. They are headed by District Judge who acts as Chairman of DLSA.
- DLSAs also contribute towards reducing burden on courts by regulating Lok Adalats conducted by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
 - o Lok Adalat is an Alternative Disputes Resolution Mechanisms. It has been given statutory status under LSA.

About LSA, 1987

o It was enacted to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections.

✓ Article 39A provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society and ensures justice for all.

o NALSA has been constituted under LSA to monitor and evaluate implementation of legal aid programmes and to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under Act.

TELE-LAW SERVICE TO BE MADE FREE OF COST FOR CITIZENS FROM 2022

• A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Department of Justice and National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on Integrated Delivery of Legal Services.

o As per the agreement, NALSA will provide services of 700 lawyers, in each district exclusively for Tele-Law program.

o These empanelled lawyers would also act as referral lawyers and assist in strengthening the mechanism for dispute avoidance and dispute resolution at the pre-litigation stage.

• Launched in 2017 by the Department of Justice (Ministry of Law & Justice), Tele-Law initiative is a reliable and efficient e-interface and pre-litigation tool.

• Tele-Law mainstreams legal aid to the marginalized seeking legal help by connecting them with the Panel Lawyers through the tele/video-conferencing infrastructure available at Common Service Centres (CSCs) across 1 lakh Gram Panchayats.

THE FAMILY COURTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022

• The Act to grant statutory cover to already established family courts in Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland has come to force.

• The Act amends the Family Courts Act, 1984 which provided an establishment of family courts by States to deal with disputes related to family and marriage.

- o The central government is empowered to notify dates for the Act to come into force in different states.
- o The governments of Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland have set up Family Courts in their states under the Act. However, the central government has not extended the application of the Act to these states.

CHINA PAKISTAN ECONOMIC CORRIDOR (CPEC)

China and Pakistan have decided to invite interested third country to join the CPEC project and are also planning to expand CPEC projects to Afghanistan.

About CPEC Project

- CPEC is a 3,000-km long route of infrastructure projects connecting Pakistan's Gwadar port in Balochistan to China's north-western Xinjiang region.
- CPEC is a part of China's most ambitious project 'Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
 - o The BRI, launched in 2013, aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.
- It will pave the way for China to access the Middle East and Africa from Gwadar Port, enabling China to access the Indian Ocean and in return China will support development projects in Pakistan to overcome the latter's energy crises and stabilising its faltering economy.
- India has repeatedly registered its protests over CPEC.



FORMER JAPAN PRIME MINISTER (PM) SHINZO ABE ASSASSINATED

- Shinzo Abe was Japan's longest-serving PM who pushed for more assertive policies to revitalise Japan economically and rebuild its role on the global stage.
- o India finds a special mention in his book Utsukushii Kuni E (Toward a Beautiful Country)

ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS

- China marked the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return and emphasized Beijing's control over Hong Kong under One country, two systems (OCTS).

Background of OCTS

- o It was originally proposed to unify China and Taiwan but rejected by Taiwan.

o The idea resurfaced when China started talks with Britain and Portugal, who were governing Hong Kong and Macau, respectively, as colonies.

About OCTS

o Under this, China proposed that, Hong Kong, and Macau, can have different economic and political systems from that of mainland China, while being part of China.

o Both regions became Special Administrative Regions of China with their own currencies, economic and legal systems,

✓ However, defence and foreign affairs would be decided by China.

o Also, Hong Kong has freedom of assembly and speech, and some democratic rights, which are not available in mainland China.

SANCTIONS WAIVER FOR S-400 MISSILE SYSTEM

• The US House of Representatives passed a legislative amendment that exempts India from economic sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for purchasing the S400 missile defence system from Russia in 2018 to help deter aggressors like China.

o The US sees India as an important ally in its fight against China. If sanctioned, the Quad collective, of which India is part, could be significantly impacted.

FIVE YEARS OF GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

01 July 2022, marked the fifth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

• GST is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination based single domestic tax on the consumption of goods and services.

• It was introduced through the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016 for the 'One Nation, One Tax, One Market' regime.

• Levied at every value addition point, it has subsumed several indirect Central and State/UT level taxes on goods and services

o Some taxes are still out of its ambit such as- Excise Duty on Alcohol, Property Tax; Stamp Duty, Petroleum crude, Diesel, Petrol, Aviation Turbine Fuel, Natural Gas, Electricity Duty, Basic Custom Duty, etc.

- Components of GST: Based on inter-state and intra-state, it has four components- Central GST (CGST), State GST (SGST), Union Territory GST (UTGST), and Integrated GST (IGST).

o IGST is applicable on inter-state supply of goods and services while others are intra-state. It is governed by the Centre and divided between respective states.

TREND ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN INDIA

- According to data by Ministry of Commerce, India received the highest annual FDI inflows of USD 84.835 billion in FY 21-22 overtaking last year's FDI by USD 2.87 billion.

Other key trends

o Top sourcing nations for FDI - Singapore followed by USA and Mauritius.

o Top FDI receiving states – Karnataka followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.

o Top sectors receiving FDI - Computer Software & Hardware followed by Services Sector and Automobile Industry.

o FDI in Manufacturing: Increased by 76% in FY22 (USD 21.34 billion) in comparison to FY21.

o FDI is a purchase of an interest in a company by a company or an investor located outside its borders.

THEATRE COMMANDS

Minister of Defence announced the setting up of 'Joint Theatre Commands' (JTC) of the tri-services.

About Theatre Commands

- Theaterisation or Theatre Command means putting specific number of personnel from the three services —army, navy and air force— under a common commander in a specified geographical territory.

- o At present, the Indian Army, navy and air force each has multiple commands that are vertically split in terms of their command structure.

- o The army and air force have seven commands each while the navy has three commands.

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA)

Recently, Supreme Court upheld the core amendments made to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

- SC verdict came on challenge raised against amendments introduced to PMLA, 2002 by way of Finance Act in 2019.

- o Amendments to PMLA provided Enforcement Directorate (ED) extensive powers of summons, arrest and raids, and makes bail provisions difficult while shifting the burden of proof of innocence onto the accused rather than prosecution.

- Other Key observations made by SC in **Vijay Madanlal Choudhary Vs Union of India** case.

Specifications	Detail
Money Laundering is not a standalone offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money-laundering is one of the heinous crimes, which not only affects the social and economic fabric of nation, but also tends to promote other heinous offences, such as terrorism, offences related to NDPS Act, etc.
Twin bail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stringent conditions for bail under PMLA Act are legal and not arbitrary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The 'twin conditions' laid down in Section 45 of PMLA for grant of bail: that the court must be satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accused is not guilty of an offence; and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail. • Court ignored the earlier judgement of SC that had declared twin conditions for bail to be unconstitutional, being violative of Articles 14 and 21 of Constitution.
ED officials are not police officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities of ED who are investigating into money laundering cases as per PMLA Act are not "police officers". Hence, statements recorded by ED authorities under Section 50 of the PMLA Act while inquiring into proceeds of crime are not hit by Article 20(3) (right against self-incrimination).
Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to formally register an ECIR before initiating penal action or prosecution against person involved with process or activity connected with proceeds of crime under PMLA, 2002. • ECIR cannot be equated with First Information Report (FIR) as it is an internal document of ED.
Provisional attachment of property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC upheld section 5 of PMLA, which concerns with provisional attachment of property.
PMLA amendment as Money Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The court did not examine arguments based on the fact that some of the amendments were introduced in the form of Money Bills, as the issue concerning the scope of Money Bills is being separately considered by a seven-judge Bench.

About Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002

- It was introduced in 2002 and enacted in 2005 to tackle the problem of money laundering.
 - o Through the process of money laundering a person converts illegal money into a legal entity.
- It was enacted in response to India's global commitment (including Vienna Convention) to combat the menace of money laundering, stemming from the trade of drugs and narcotics and organised crime that goes with it.

Objectives of PML Act

- o To prevent and control money laundering
- o To confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money; and
- o To deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.
- Under the Act, ED is empowered to conduct money laundering investigation.

Key features of PMLA, 2002

- **Defines offence of money laundering:** According to the act, whosoever attempts to indulge in any process or activity connected with the proceeds of crime including its concealment, possession, acquisition or use and projecting or claiming it as untainted property shall be guilty of offence of moneylaundering.
- **Set ups Adjudicating Authority:** It prescribes for formation of three-member Adjudicating Authority for dealing with matters relating to attachment and confiscation of property under the Act.
- **Set ups Appellate Tribunal:** It is the body appointed by Centre empowered to hear appeals against the decisions of the adjudicating authority or any other authority under the act.
- **Set ups Special Courts:** They have been set-up in a number of States / UTs by Central Government to conduct the trial of the offences of money laundering.

- **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIUIND):** It was established in 2004 as the central national agency primarily responsible for obtaining, processing, analyzing and imparting information related to suspect financial transactions.

ACCESS TO CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AS UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHT

- India has voted in favour of a UNGA resolution that recognizes the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.
 - o The resolution also noted that the right to a healthy environment is related to existing international law and affirms that its promotion requires the full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.
 - o It is not legally binding.
 - o It was not included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
- Earlier in 2021, the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva passed a resolution recognising access to a healthy and sustainable environment as a universal right.
 - o 50 years ago, the United Nations Conference on Environment in Stockholm concluded in 1972 with a resolution placing environmental issues at global forefront.

5 WETLANDS GET 'INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE' TAG

- India now has 54 wetlands.
- Ramsar Convention adopted in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- These wet-lands include:

Wetlands	State	Features
Karikili Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home to cormorants, egrets, grey heron, open-billed stork, darter, spoonbill, white Ibis, night herons, grebes, grey pelican among others.
Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the last remaining natural wetlands of Chennai city.
Pichavaram Mangrove	Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the largest mangrove ecosystems in India with littoral and swamp forest habitats. Located between the estuaries of the Vellar and Kollidam rivers. Trees here are permanently rooted under a few feet of water.
Pala wetland	Mizoram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest natural wetland in Mizoram. A deep lake (over 16 metres deep), supports a rich diversity of animal species etc. Provide an excellent habitat for the sambar deer, wild boars and barking deer. Habitat for the endangered Hoolock gibbon and Phayre's leaf monkey. Revered by the local Mara people.
Sakhya Sagar wetland	Madhya Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created from the Manier river in 1918. Located near Madhav National Park in the Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh.

FIRST INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER (IAC) VIKRANT

- It is currently codenamed IAC-1 and will be called INS Vikrant once it enters service in the Indian Navy.

- An aircraft carrier generally leads as the capital ship of a carrier strike/battle group. Only five or six nations currently have the capability of manufacturing an aircraft carrier.
- IAC-1 has been designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, and built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a public sector shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping.
- India's has had aircraft carriers earlier too — but those were built either by the British or the Russians.
- o INS Vikramaditya (Soviet-Russian warship 'Admiral Gorshkov) is currently the Navy's only aircraft carrier.
- o INS Vikrant and the INS Viraat, were originally the British-built.

RADIOCARBON DATING OR CARBON-14 DATING

- Burning of fossil fuels has resulted in falling proportion of radioactive carbon-14 in the atmospheric Carbon-dioxide affecting effectiveness of Carbon-14 dating adversely.
- Carbon-14 dating provides objective age estimates for carbon-based materials that originated from living organisms.

Principle:

- o All living things absorb carbon, including radioactive carbon-14 from the atmosphere and food sources.
- o When the living being dies, they stop absorbing, but the radioactive carbon that they've accumulated continues to decay.
- o Measuring the amount left over gives an estimate for how long something has been dead.

RIGHT TO REPAIR

- Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) recently set up committee on the Right to Repair to emphasize on the LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) movement through sustainable consumption.

o Key sectors identified for this framework include Farming Equipment, Mobile Phones/ Tablets, Consumer Durables and Automobiles & Automobile Equipment.

- Right to Repair movement calls for manufacturers to make authentic parts available to consumers so that they can get their device repaired from independent shops as well, if they so desire.

o Right to Repair has been recognised in many countries including the US, UK and European Union.

GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD (GIB)

- Great Indian Bustard (GIB) count fell below 100.
- The population of GIB is dwindling due to the lack of action to convert the overhead cable to underground power transmission in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- In April 2021, Supreme Court had ordered the power companies in the two states to make the high-tension power lines underground so that GIB do not get caught in the web.

Steps taken for GIB Conservation:

o It is one of the Species for Recovery Programme under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

o Included under National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016).

INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR POWER PROJECT

- NTPC has said it has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project.
- 100 MW Floating Solar Power Project has been operationalized at NTPC Ramagundam, Telangana.
- The project is endowed with advanced technology as well as environment friendly features.

CHILD LABOUR

- Parliament standing committee on labour was recently informed that centre has no new data on child labour.
- It is for the first time that a Parliamentary panel is engaged in a detailed examination of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme.
 - o Drying up of budgetary provisions meant for the NCLP scheme after its merger with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan, is the prime reason for lack of updated data.

About child labour

- o As per Census 2011 there are 10.1 million working children of 5-14 years age in India.
- o Causes: Debt bondage, armed conflict, consumerism, forced labour, etc.

- **Constitutional provisions on Child labour**
 - o **Article 21(A) and 45** provides for free and compulsory education to all children from 6-14 years.
 - o **Article 23** prohibits and criminalises human trafficking and forced labour.
 - o **Article 24** prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines & hazardous employment.
 - o **Articles 39** directs the State to ensure health and strengths of workers and tender age of children are not abused.

SPACE TOURISM

ISRO is developing capabilities towards space tourism through demonstration of human space flight capability to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

About Space Tourism

- Space tourism is a segment of space travel that allows lay people to travel to space for recreational, leisure or business purposes.
 - o From \$350 million in 2019, the industry is forecasted to grow to more than \$1 trillion by 2040.
- Space Tourism aims to make space more accessible to those people who are not astronauts and want to travel to space for non-scientific reasons.
- Three private companies – Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic and Elon Musk’s SpaceX — are some of the companies that have entered space tourism.

POLAR SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLE (PSLV)

- PSLV on its 55th mission (PSLV-C53) successfully launched three Singaporean satellites in the second commercial mission of New Space India Limited (NSIL).
 - o NSIL is the commercial arm of ISRO with primary responsibility of enabling Indian industries to take up high technology space-related activities.

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE (JWST)

- James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) recently delivered deepest infrared image of universe yet.
- Known as Webb’s First Deep Field, image shows the galaxy cluster SMACS 0723 as it appeared 4.6 billion years ago.
 - o One of the goals of JWST was to search for first galaxies or luminous objects formed after Big Bang along with other goals of determining how galaxies evolved, observing stars formation etc.
- JWST, NASA’s s infrared flagship observatory, is an international collaboration between NASA, European Space Agency, and Canadian Space Agency.
 - o It is placed in Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 2 (L2).

- JWST is being considered as successor of Hubble Space Telescope (HST).

PENTAQUARKS AND TETRAQUARKS

- Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) experiment has observed three new particles at European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).
 - o Pentaquark and first-ever pair of tetraquarks are three members to list of new hadrons.
 - o They will help physicists better understand how quarks bind together into composite particles.
- Quarks are elementary particles that usually combine in groups of twos and threes to form hadrons such as protons and neutrons that make up atomic nuclei.
 - o They can also combine into four-quark and five-quark particles, called tetraquarks and pentaquarks.

VIRUSES IN NEWS

- Human Papilloma Virus
 - o 'Cervavac', the country's first quadrivalent human papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) manufactured by Serum Institute of India was approved by the Drug Controller General of India for market authorisation.
 - o HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that may cause cervical cancer. In India, cervical cancer accounted for 9.4% of all cancers and 18.3% (1,23,907) of new cases in 2020
 - o Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer of women in India despite being largely preventable.
 - o Cervical cancer can be eliminated if all prepubertal girls are given HPV vaccination globally.

Epstein Barr Virus (EBV)

- o Scientists have found that the cancer-causing EBV can infect the neuronal cells leading to diseases of the central nervous system and brain cancer.

- o EBV viruses are widely present in the human population.
- o They are usually harmless, but the virus gets reactivated inside the body in some unusual conditions like immunological stress or immunocompetent.

• Marburg virus disease (MVD)

- o Ghana has reported first-ever suspected cases of MVD.
- o It's a highly infectious viral haemorrhagic fever with a fatality ratio of up to 88 percent.
- o It belongs to same family as Ebola.
- o It was first identified in 1967 in Germany's Marburg and Frankfurt.
- o Fruit bats of Pteropodidae Family are key carriers of the disease.
- o It is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads among humans through human-to-human transmission.
- o Currently there are no vaccines or antiviral treatments approved for MVD.

DISEASES IN NEWS

Kala Azar

- Also known as Black fever, or Visceral Leishmaniasis it is a protozoan parasitic disease, spread by sandfly bites. The flies are infected with the parasite called 'leishmania donovani'.
- o Disease is linked to malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and environmental changes.
- o It is a treatable and curable disease.
- In India, the disease is endemic in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- o National Kala-Azar Elimination Programme was launched to control this disease.
- o Government aimed to eliminate the disease in India by 2015, but that deadline was missed.

African Swine Fever

- Recently, cases have been reported from Bihar, leading to State government imposing a 30-day ban on the transportation of pigs, pork and pork products and pig manure.
- ASF is a highly contagious and deadly viral disease affecting pigs and wild boar with up to 100% case fatality rate.
 - o ASF is not a threat to human health and cannot be transmitted from pigs to humans.
 - o Currently, there is no effective vaccine against ASF.
 - o Symptoms- high fever, vomiting and diarrhoea among others.
 - o It was first reported in India in 2019.

AMENDMENTS TO FLAG CODE OF INDIA

Recently, the centre amended the Flag Code of India.

- The amendment allows the national flag to be flown both in day and at night if it is displayed in the open or on the House of a member of the public. Earlier, the tricolour could be hoisted only between sunrise and sunset.
 - o The Flag Code of India was earlier amended in December 2021, allowing the use of polyester, apart from cotton, wool, silk and khadi for making hand-spun, hand-woven and machine-made flags.
- The amendment is brought with regards to the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.
 - o Har Ghar Tiranga is a campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence.
- Department of posts have been tasked with utilising its reach and manpower across the country by making the people aware of the importance of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign.

The Flag Code of India, 2002

- The Flag Code of India is a set of laws and conventions about the use, display and hoisting of the Indian national flag. It was brought into effect on January 26th, 2002.
- o The National Flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 22nd July 1947.
- It governs the display of the National flag by private, public and government institutions.
- Size and shape of the national flag: It shall be rectangular. It can be of any size but the ratio of the length to the height of the national flag should be 3:2.

STATE EMBLEM OF INDIA

Recently, a cast of State Emblem was constructed atop the new Parliament building- the Central Vista Project.

The History behind the State Emblem

- The Lion Capital was erected by Mauryan Emperor Ashoka during the year 250 BC to mark the spot where Buddha imparted Dharmachakra Pravartana (first sermon after Enlightenment, explaining the Four-Noble Truths).
- The National Emblem is the graphic representation of the Lion Capital that originally sits at the top of the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath, along with the National Motto written below it.

Why did the Constituent Assembly embrace the Sarnath pillar as the national emblem?

- It was felt that the pillar epitomised the power, courage and confidence of the free nation.
- The emblem depicts a two-dimensional sculpture with the words Satyameva Jayate (truth alone triumphs) written below it, taken from the Mundaka Upanishad, written in Devanagari script.

MANGARH HILLOCK

- As a tribute to tribal freedom fighters who lost their lives, government is exploring possibility of declaring Mangarh Hillock, in Banswara District (Rajasthan), a monument of national importance.

- o It is situated at Gujarat-Rajasthan border. Place has become sacred and is better known as Mangarh Dham.

About Mangarh massacre

- o In 1913 some bhils revolted against British rule under leadership of a social reformer Govind Guru (a local tribal) and Punja.

- o Govind Guru launched 'Bhagat movement' among Bhils asking them to adhere to vegetarianism and abstain from all types of intoxicants.

- o In November 1913, hundreds of tribals had gathered at the Mangarh hillock for a peaceful meeting when they were surrounded and shot dead by British forces.

- ✓ Event is also known as Mini Jalianwala Bagh massacre.

Places in News : India

Rajasthan

- Report submitted on declaring Mangarh hillock as a monument of National Importance.
- Amer taken up under 'Linking textile with Tourism'.

Madhya Pradesh

- Burhanpur became the first Har Jal certified district in the country.
- Sakhya Sagar wetland gets 'international importance' tag.

Gujarat

- PM inaugurated Digital India Week 2022 in Gandhinagar.
- Gujarat forest department will restore 10,000 hectares of Banni grasslands in coming year.
- List of the 'World's Greatest Places' of 2022 featured Ahmedabad.

Maharashtra

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) becomes the first 100% Landlord Major Port of India

Karnataka

- ASI plans to conserve an ancient Buddhist site near Kanaganahalli.
- Anegundi taken up under 'Linking textile with Tourism'.

Kerala

- List of the 'World's Greatest Places' of 2022 featured Kerala.
- First Monkeypox case detected in Kerala

Jammu and Kashmir

- Union Home Minister unveiled Statue of Peace of Swami Ramanujacharya in Srinagar.

West Bengal

- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park started a programme to release 20 red pandas in forests.

Arunachal Pradesh

- NHRC seeks report on harassment of Chakmas.

Assam

- Signed the 'Namsai Declaration' with Arunachal Pradesh for minimising the inter-State boundary dispute.

Manipur

- Government to remove all floating houses and fishing structures on Loktak lake.

Mizoram

- Pala wetland gets 'international importance' tag.

Odisha

- Raghubrajpur taken up under 'Linking textile with Tourism'

Andhra Pradesh

- Tirupati taken up under 'Linking textile with Tourism'

Tamil Nadu

- 100% Saturation of Grey Water Management achieved in Pappankuzhi Village.
- Three wetlands (Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikarana Marsh Reserve Forest, Pichavaram Mangrove, Pala wetland) get 'international importance' tag.
- Mahabalipuram taken up under 'Linking textile with Tourism'.

Places in News : World

Germany

- Nord Stream 1 was shut down for scheduled maintenance work.

Belarus

- Will be admitted as new SCO member.

Iran

- India, Iran review Chabahar Port Progress.
- Will be admitted as new SCO member.

Turkmenistan

- 6th Caspian summit held in Ashgabat.

Japan

- Former PM Shinzo Abe Assassinated.
- Sakurajima volcano erupted at island of Kyushu

Djibouti

- Indian Navy Stealth Frigate INS Tarkash visited Djibouti.

Kenya

- ONGC Videsh Limited is in talks with investment in onshore oil projects in Kenya.

Madagascar

- India and Madagascar signed a MoU on tele-education and tele-medicine.

Zimbabwe

- Zimbabwe debuts gold coin as legal tender

Argentina

- Buenos Aires blocked use of gender-inclusive language in schools.

Namibia

- India inks pact with Namibia for cheetah reintroduction.

Congo

- Congo is going to auction forest land to oil companies.
- Two peacekeepers from India killed in an attack.

Ghana

- Initiated talks with IMF to support a government economic program.

Mali

- European forces battling extremists has withdrawn from Mali.

Portugal

- UN Ocean Conference held in Lisbon.

Italy

- Marmolada glacier collapsed in the Italian Alps amid record temperatures.