

CURRENT AFFAIRS : OCTOBER 2022

PREVENTIVE DETENTION

Recently, Supreme Court has ruled that the preventive detention is to be used only in exceptional circumstances.

- The Supreme Court in an order observed that preventive detention is an exceptional power of the State which affects the personal liberty of the individual and has to be employed sparingly.
 - o The court distinguished between law and order situations and public disorder. Preventive detention may apply in the latter but never for the former situation.
- The bench referred to the 1982 SC decision in 'Ashok Kumar vs Delhi administration' case which said preventive detention is devised to afford protection to society.
 - o The objective is not to punish a man for having done something but to intercept before he does it and to prevent him from doing.

About Preventive Detention

- It is the detention of a person on a mere reasonable apprehension of him doing an activity dangerous to public order and security.
 - o Here, the person is confined in custody without undergoing a trial.
- Constitution gives protection against arrest and detention under Article 22 (1) and 22 (2).
 - o These protections are not available to a person arrested or detained under preventive detention laws (Article 22(3)).
- Multiple laws such as Code of Criminal Procedure, Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Act (NDPS) 1985, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act etc. permit Preventive Detention.
 - o According to the NCRB 'Crimes in India Report 2021', over 1.1 lakh people were placed under Preventive Detention in 2021, highest since 2017.

- The Criminal Procedure Code of India also provides for Preventive detention under Section 151.

o According to Section 151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the police are empowered to make preventive arrests if they believe they must do so to prevent the commission of “any cognisable offence”.

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS AGAINST PREVENTIVE DETENTION



Article 22 (1)

- **No person can be detained in custody without being informed of grounds of arrest** or shall be denied right to consult or be defended by legal practitioner.



Article 22 (2)

- Every person who is arrested/ detained in custody shall be **produced before magistrate within 24 hours** of such an arrest.
- **No person can be detained beyond 24 hours without authority** of magistrate.



Article 22 (3)

- Above two clauses will not apply to a person who is detained in accordance to a law providing for preventive detention.



Article 22 (4)

- **No person can be detained for more than a period of 3 months unless an advisory board confirms** that there is sufficient cause for continuation of such detention.
- **Exception to Article 22(4)** has been provided in **Article 22(7) (b)** itself.



Article 22 (7) (b)

- A person can be preventively **detained for more than 3 months without opinion of an advisory board** if Parliament by law provides-
 - ▶ **Maximum period of such detention.**
 - ▶ **Circumstances, classes of persons and classes of cases** to which such a law may apply.

Laws Providing for Preventive Detention in India

- **First Preventive Detention Act (1950)** was passed to prevent anti-national elements from carrying out acts that are hostile to Nation's security and defence.
- **Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) (1971-77)** is infamous for its excesses during emergency when it was aggressively used against political opponents, trade unions and civil society groups that challenged the government.
 - **44th Amendment Act of 1978 removed MISA.**
- **Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974** provided for preventive detention to maintain and improve foreign exchange and to deter illegal trade.
- **Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) 1985** is deemed to be most powerful and restrictive laws drawn up under the system of preventive detention.
- **Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2002** was presented as an act similar to TADA.

Supreme Court on Preventive detention

- **AK Gopalan Vs State of Madras (1950):** The court gave a green flag to the Preventive Detention Act because of the presence of the explicit provisions of Article 22(5).
- **ShibbanLal v. State of Uttar Pradesh:** The Supreme Court of India stated that a courtroom isn't even competent to enquire into reality or in any case of the facts which are referenced as the grounds of detainment.
- **Shambhu Nath Shankar Vs State of West Bengal:** Although the concept of Preventive detention in itself is draconian and infringes the fundamental rights guaranteed in the constitution, sometimes it is necessary for the state to take such extreme steps to maintain the security of the country.

DIGITALISATION OF LAND RECORDS IN INDIA

To boost the digitalisation of land records in India, the central government has asked the state governments to install local servers as well as increase internet speed in sub-registrar offices.

- The government is also planning to come up with an online registration system under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).
- o It is being implemented by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

About Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)

- It is a central sector scheme launched in 2016.
- The DILRMP has 3 major components:
 - o Computerization of land record;
 - o Survey/re-survey
 - o Computerization of Registration

Significance of digitalization of land records

- Better credit delivery in rural areas: Creation of vast bankable assets across rural India can help in credit growth, especially in agriculture and MSME sectors.
- Reduced litigation: Enhanced transparency in the land records maintenance system will minimize the scope of land disputes.
- Infrastructure: Facilitates development of new infrastructure by easing process of land acquisition and rehabilitation and settlement of compensation claims.
- Revenue Generation: Enhanced local revenues through improved property tax billing and collection.

Current Status of Digitalisation of Land Records in India

- **Computerization of Land Records (Record of rights)** has been completed in 94% of villages.
- **Around 29 States/UTs** have displayed Record of Rights (RoRs) on Web.
- **Integration of land records & property registration** has been done in 75.78 % of Sub-Registrar Offices.
- **70.41 % of Cadastral Maps have been digitized.**
 - Cadastral maps marks the real estate boundaries and division of land to define the ownership and purpose of the land.
- **Textual and spatial data integration** has been completed for 60.67 % of villages.

GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

- Recently, Kerala Governor threatened to remove Ministers from their posts if they continued to lower the dignity of his office.
- **Article 164 of the Constitution** provides that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor.
 - The other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister.
 - Additionally, CM and the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor.
 - However, pleasure of the governor has not been defined.
- But there have been instances of Governors dismissing Chief Ministers, but those were related to constitutional situations in which the legislative majority of the incumbent government was lost.

- Various judicial pronouncements for Pleasure of the Governor
 - o **Mahabir Prasad v Prafulla Chandra 1969**, the governor's pleasure under article 164(1) is subject to Article 164(2).
 - ✓ Thus the withdrawal of the governor's pleasure must coincide with the withdrawal of support to the government by the assembly.
 - o In **Shamsher Singh & Anr v State of Punjab (1974)**, SC declared that Governor shall exercise his formal constitutional powers only in accordance with the advice of their Ministers.
 - o In **Nabam Rebia and etc. v Deputy Speaker and Ors (2016)**, SC ruled that Article 163 of the Constitution does not give the Governor a general discretionary power to act against or without the advice of his Council of Ministers.
- Thus, as per the current understanding, the Governor cannot remove the ministers at his own will.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INTERMEDIARY GUIDELINES AND DIGITAL MEDIA ETHICS CODE) AMENDMENT RULES, 2022

- IT Rules 2021 has been released under section 87 of IT Act, 2000 for Social-Media, Digital Media and OTT platforms.

Key provisions

- o **Grievance Appellate Committees (GAC)**: The Central Government shall establish one or more Grievance Appellate Committees (GAC) within three months.
 - ✓ Each GAC will consist of a chairperson and two whole time members appointed by the Central government.
 - ✓ The GAC will hear appeals by social media users against decisions of grievance officers appointed by the intermediary.
- o **Dispute Resolution Mechanism**: Online dispute resolution mechanism, i.e. digital mode of the entire appeal process, from filing of appeal to the decision.

- o **Obligations for intermediary:** Intermediaries can develop and implement “appropriate safeguards” to prevent misuse of the grievance redressal mechanism.
- o **Time bound:** The companies will be required to acknowledge complaints from users within 24 hours and resolve them within 15 days or 72 hours in case of an information takedown request.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST OF DEATH ROW CONVICTS

- In a significant order, SC has reiterated the importance of conducting a psychological evaluation of convicts who have been awarded death sentences. It called for:
 - o Psychological evaluation of condemned prisoners by expert doctors
 - o Access to them by mitigating investigators.
- It held this will aid Court to have an independent and holistic picture of the physical and mental condition and background of the condemned person.
- Death Penalty or capital punishment is the execution of an offender sentenced to death after conviction by a court of law for a criminal offense.
- o Constitution give power to President of India and the Governor respectively to grant pardon and to suspend, remit or commute death penalty in certain cases.

Landmark judgements related to death penalty:

- o **Bachan singh v State of Punjab:** Supreme court pointed out only in the rarest of rare cases that are brutal, the death penalty should be imposed.
- o **Machhi Singh and others v State of Punjab:** Supreme court stressed weighing aggravating factors of the crime against the mitigating factors of the criminal before awarding death penalty.

FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF)

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced the removal of Pakistan from its “Grey List.”

- Pakistan has been placed in and removed from “Grey List” in the past too. It was placed in the “Grey List” for the third time in June, 2018 and remained there till October, 2022.
- o As a result of FATF scrutiny, Pakistan has been forced to take some action against well-known terrorists, including those involved in attacks against the entire international community in Mumbai on 26/11.
- India highlighted in global interest that Pakistan must continue to take credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustained action against terrorism and terrorist financing emanating from territories under its control.

About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

- FATF is the global money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) watchdog. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities.
- Origin: It was established in 1989, by a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit held in Paris.
 - o The summit set up the FATF to develop and promote policies, globally, to help eliminate threat posed by money laundering (ML).
 - o In 2001, the FATF took over responsibility for the development of standards in the fight against terrorist financing.
- Membership: FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations (Gulf Co-operation Council and European Commission).
 - o India became a member of the FATF in 2010.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)

INTERPOL has launched the first ever police metaverse specifically designed for law enforcement agencies worldwide during its 90th General Assembly in New Delhi.

- Metaverse refers to real-time 3D virtual spaces, where users can meet, create, socialise, work, buy goods and services and attend events with other people who are not in same physical space.



- INTERPOL metaverse allows registered users to take virtual tour of its general secretariat headquarters in France's Lyon, interact with other officers via their avatars, and take training courses in forensic investigation and other policing skills.

- o This metaverse, provided through the Interpol Secure Cloud, assures neutrality.

- o It can be accessed by all 195 member countries and offers benefits like remote work, networking, collecting and preserving evidence from crime scenes, and delivering training.

About INTERPOL

- It is an inter-governmental organisation comprising 195 member countries, which helps police forces in all these countries to better coordinate their actions.

- o It enables member countries to share and access data on crimes and criminals and offers a range of technical and operational support.

- o General secretariat coordinates organization's day-to-day activities.

- o It is run by a secretary general with its headquarters in Lyon, France, with a global complex for innovation in Singapore, and several satellite offices in different regions.

- It has a National Central Bureau (NCB) in each member country, which is the central point of contact for both the general secretariat and other NCBs around the world.

- o Each NCB is run by police officials of that country, and usually sits in the government ministry responsible for policing. (Ministry of Home Affairs in India).

TYPES OF INTERPOL NOTICES



RED NOTICE: To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons with a view to extradition or similar lawful action.



YELLOW NOTICE: To help locate missing persons, often minors, or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.



BLUE NOTICE: To collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a Crime.



BLACK NOTICE: To seek information on unidentified bodies.



GREEN NOTICE: To provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries.



ORANGE NOTICE: To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety.



INTERPOL-UN SECURITY COUNCIL SPECIAL NOTICE: Issued for groups and individuals who are the targets of UN Security Council sanctions committees.



PURPLE NOTICE: To seek or provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

Recently, RBI has recently launched a pilot project on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and also issued a Concept Note on CBDC.

- The purpose of the concept note is to create awareness about CBDCs in general and the planned features of the digital Rupee, in particular.
- It explains the objectives, choices, benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC in India, referred to as e₹ (digital Rupee).

- It called for the amendment of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 to include Digital Rupee in the definition of the term “bank note”.

Digital Rupee as proposed by Concept note

- As per the concept note, the design of the Digital Rupee will be decided based on the circumstances and need so that it is combatable with the goals of financial and monetary stability.
- Accordingly, two forms of CBDCs may be introduced:
 - ✓ CBDC-Retail: potentially available for use by all private sector, non-financial consumers and businesses.
 - ✓ CBDC-Wholesale: designed for restricted access by financial institutions.

About Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)

- RBI defines CBDC as the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.
- It is pegged to the value of that country's fiat currency and adds digital form to existing physical form of bank note (Finance Bill 2022).
 - o Under the RBI Act (1934), RBI has the sole right to issue bank notes in India. Only coins, under the Coinage Act (2011) and ₹1 note are issued by central government.

Key concepts related to money

- **Money:** Money is a broader term that refers to an intangible system of value that makes the exchange of goods and services possible, now and in the future.
- **Currency:** It is a tangible form of money and is a medium of exchange for goods and services. It's money, in the physical or digital form.
- **Legal tender:** It is a currency that is declared legal by the government and used for payment of the debt. All currency notes, coins and now CBDC are legal tender in India.
- **Fiat currency:** It is a form of currency that is declared a legal tender and therefore includes all type of currency in circulation. It is backed by a country's government instead of a physical commodity like gold or any financial instruments like cheque. therefore has no intrinsic value. It differs from Commodity money, representative money as well as cryptocurrency.
 - o **Commodity money** has intrinsic money and is derived from a material like gold or silver.
 - o **Representative money** is backed by a physical commodity and issued by the government, like cheques and credit cards.
 - o **Cryptocurrency** is free of central authority and backed by blockchain technology.

LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTER (LCH)

- The Indian Air Force inducted the indigenously developed (by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.) multi-role LCH-Prachand. India has become the seventh country to make attack helicopters.
- Only combat helicopter in the world which can land and takeoff at an altitude of 5,000 met
- Equipped with a countermeasure dispensing system that protects it from enemy radars or infrared seekers of the enemy missiles.

DIRTY BOMB

- Russia has claimed that Ukraine is planning to use a dirty bomb.
- Dirty Bomb is a bomb that contains radioactive material, such as uranium, which is scattered through the air when its conventional explosive detonates.
- It doesn't need to contain highly refined radioactive material, as is used in a nuclear bomb.
- Instead, it uses radioactive materials from hospitals, nuclear power stations or research laboratories.
- This makes them much cheaper and quicker to make than nuclear weapons.

NOBEL PRIZES 2022

The Nobel Assembly and the Royal Swedish Academy of Science have announced the winners of the Medicine, Physics and Chemistry Nobel for the year 2022.

About Nobel Prize

- The Nobel Prize is an international award administered by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, and based on the last will of Alfred Nobel (in 1895).
 - Alfred Nobel, a Swedish inventor, and entrepreneur, is popularly known for inventing dynamite, blasting cap, and smokeless gunpowder.

- Categories: Instituted in 1901, the prize is awarded annually from the bulk of fortune left by Alfred Nobel in five categories: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace - conferred to people for the greatest benefit to humankind in preceding year.

- The sixth category, the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, was instituted in 1968 by the Royal Bank of Sweden and was first awarded in 1969.

- What do the winners receive?

The recipient of each prize receives three things:

- A Nobel diploma, each of which is a unique work of art;
 - A Nobel medal;
 - A cash prize of 10 million Swedish kronor. (They have to deliver a lecture to receive the money).

- Who awards the prizes?

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry and Economics.

- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.

- The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden awards the Nobel Prize in Medicine (Physiology).

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee is responsible for the selection of eligible candidates and the choice of the Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

- Prize winners are called laureates, to signify the laurel wreath given to victors of contests in ancient Greece. More than one, but no more than three, people can win each prize.

- The Nobel statutes prohibit the judges from discussing their deliberations for 50 years.

Indian Noble Prize Winners*



RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Nobel Prize for Literature (1913)

For-Profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful work, by which with consummate skill, he has made his poetic journey

C V RAMAN

Nobel Prize for Physics (1930)

For-Work on scattering of light and discovery of Raman Effect



HAR GOBIND KHORANA

Nobel Prize In Physiology or Medicine (1968)

For-Interpretation of genetic code and function in protein synthesis

MOTHER TERESA

Nobel Peace Prize (1979)

For-Work in bringing help to suffering humanity



SUBRAMANYAN CHANDRASEKHAR

Nobel Prize for Physics (1983)

For-Studies of Physical processes of importance to structure and evolution of stars

AMARTYA SEN

Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences (1998)

For-Work Contributions to welfare economics



VENKATRAMAN RAMAKRISHNAN

Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2009)

For-Studies of structure and function of ribosome

KAILASH SATYARTHI

Nobel Peace Prize (2014)

For-Struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education



ABHIJIT BANERJEE

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences (2019)

For-Experimental approach to alleviating global poverty

* Five of them are Indian citizens and four are of Indian origin. ★

EXERCISE IN NEWS

- Exercise Garuda-VII: It is a bilateral exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force (FASF) at Air Force Station Jodhpur.

- Simbex: The Indian Navy is hosting the SingaporeIndia Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) at Visakhapatnam.
- IMT TRILAT: It is Indian Navy's maiden Trilateral Exercise with Mozambique and Tanzania.
- Prasthan exercise: An offshore security exercise conducted under aegis of Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command.
 - o Conducted every six months to integrate efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence.
- PowerEX: Designed and conducted by CERT-In in collaboration with Power-CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector) for Power Sector Utilities.
- IBSAMAR: It is a joint multinational maritime exercise, among the Indian, Brazilian and South Africa navies.

GREEN CRACKERS

- Green crackers cause 30 per cent less air pollution as compared to traditional ones.
 - o They reduce emissions substantially and absorb dust and don't contain hazardous elements like barium nitrate.
- There are three categories of green crackers:
 - o SWAS - Safe Water Releaser.
 - o STAR – Safe Thermite Cracker.
 - o SAFAL – Safe Minimal Aluminium
- These can be produced by licensed manufacturers, approved by CSIR.

COMPRESSED BIO-GAS (CBG)

- Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas inaugurated Asia's largest CBG plant in Sangrur, Punjab.
- CBG is the compressed and purified bio-gas produced from waste/bio-mass sources like agricultural residue, cattle dung etc.

o In 2018, the government launched the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme to establish the CBG production ecosystem.

- Benefits:

- o Reduce the problem of Stubble Burning and related carbon dioxide emissions.
- o Produce fermented organic manure for organic farming.

KOLAR FIELDS

- Centre has decided to revive gold mining at the Kolar fields in Karnataka.
 - o Mining was shelved earlier because the extraction had become unviable.
- According to an official estimate, the extracts from Kolar gold fields (KGF) mining (gold and minerals like palladium and rhodium) are likely to fetch a value worth ₹30,000 crore.
- Operated by the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), a public sector undertaking, KGF was one of the world's deepest gold mines at a depth of 3,000 metres.

BLUE FLAG BEACHES

- The globally recognized International eco-label "BlueFlag", has been accorded to two new beaches –Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach- both in Lakshadweep.
 - o This takes the number of beaches certified under the Blue Flag certification to 12.

• About Blue Flag tag or Blue Flag certification:

- o Certification is awarded by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education or FEE.
- o The mission of Blue Flag is to promote sustainability in the tourism sector, through environmental education, environmental protection and other sustainable development practices.
- o It is awarded to beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism operators.
- o In order to qualify for the Blue Flag, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria must be met and maintained.

GLYPHOSATE

- Government has restricted use of glyphosate except for Pest Control Operators.
- About Glyphosate
 - o It is a non-selective herbicide (it will kill most plants), used to clear all kind of weeds from agricultural fields.
 - o It prevents the plants from making certain proteins that are needed for plant growth.
 - o The major consumption is done in orchards and plantation crops.

GENDER PAY PARITY

Recently, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a “pay equity policy” for its contracted women cricketers in the country.

- The match fee for both Men and Women Cricketers will now be the same from the BCCI.
- With this, India has become the second country in international cricket to implement equal pay for men and women players, first being New Zealand.

About Gender Pay Parity

- Pay parity means ensuring that employees in the same job and location are paid fairly relative to one another, regardless of their gender or ethnicity.
 - o It is often used as an indicator of gender inequality in the world of work and is also used to monitor progress towards gender equality by nations and internationally.
- Gender Pay Gap in India:
 - o India ranked 135 among a total of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022.
 - o Men in India capture 82% of labour income, while women earn just 18%, according to World Inequality Report 2022.

NUTRITIONAL SECURITY IN INDIA

India has slipped to 107th position in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022 of 121 countries, from its 101st position in 2021.

About the Global Hunger Index

- Annually published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- It was first introduced in 2006. The 2022 edition marks the 17th edition of the GHI.

Status of Nutritional Security in India

- Index Score: With a score of 29.1, the GHI finds the level of hunger in India “serious”.
 - India’s GHI score has decreased from alarming (in 2000) to serious (in 2022).
- Child wasting: The index says child wasting or the share of children under 5 years who have low weight for their height, indicating undernourishment in the country is 19.3%, the highest in the world.
- Undernourishment and stunting: India’s proportion of undernourished in the population is considered to be at a medium level, and its under-five child mortality rate is considered low.
 - Child stunting has seen a “significant decrease” from 54.2% in 1998-1999 to 35.5% in 2019-2021, although it is still “considered very high”.
- Comparison: India’s neighbours such as Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84), Pakistan (99) and Sri Lanka(64) have got higher rankings in GHI.

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN (SS) 2022

- Indore ranked first under the Cities with more than 1 lakh population and Madhya Pradesh ranked first under category States with “more than 100 Urban Local Bodies”.
- The awards were given in ceremony hosted as part of Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

COMMERCIAL 5G SERVICE

- Government recently launched commercial 5G service.

- 5G (5Th generation) is a next generation mobile network technology after 4G LTE networks. It is not a single technology but an amalgamation of various technologies such as:
 - o Massive multi-user MIMO (Multiple input multiple output) enabled network.
 - o Small cell stations to connect the base stations and users seamlessly.
 - o Mobile Edge Computing that brings cloud computing closer to the user physically.
 - o Beamforming which can be visualized as a laser beam between transmitting entity and the user.
- 5G is believed to accelerate the adoption of cloud gaming, AR/VR technology, Internet of Things, etc. and usher into wider use areas than 4G.
 - o This includes areas such as healthcare, FinTech, Agriculture and Livestock, Smart Applications, Education, etc.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED MUSTARD

- GEAC has recommended the environmental release of transgenic hybrid mustard Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11).
 - o The recommendation will now go for the approval of the MoEFCC.
 - o Earlier, in 2017, GEAC had cleared its proposal but it was vetoed by the Ministry.
- This paves the way for commercialisation of country's first GM food crop.
 - o The commercial use will be under the supervision of Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and will be subject to the Seed Act, 1966.

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)

- GEAC is the **apex biotech regulatory body in India** under the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- It has been notified under **Environmental Protection Act, 1986**.
- GEAC is a **body responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to the “release” of GM organisms and products** (ordinarily considered hazardous) into the environment.

MODHERA

- PM recently declared Modhera as India’s first 24x7 solar-powered village.
- Along with the Modhera village, the Sun Temple of Modhera also became the first heritage site in India to be powered solely by solar energy.
 - The PM also inaugurated the 3D Projection Mapping of the Modhera Sun Temple.
- About Sun Temple of Modhera (Gujarat)
 - Built in 1026-27 AD during Chalukya King Bhimdev I (1022-1063 AD) regime.
 - ✓ The earliest Dilwara Temples and the Rani ki vav (attributed to his Queen Udayamati) were also built during his regime.
 - Location: One of the four main Sun Temples, it is located on the banks of River Pushpavati and falls near the Tropic of Cancer.
 - ✓ The other 3 main Sun Temples are: Konark Sun Temple (Odisha), Martand Sun Temple (Jammu and Kashmir) and Dakshinaarka Sun Temple (Gaya).

NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE

- The 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to French author Annie Ernaux for her work that sheds light on the murky recesses of memory, family, and society.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden.

- Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian and non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2022

- Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 to one individual and two organisations:
 - o Human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus,
 - o Russian human rights organisation Memorial and
 - o Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties.
- They were awarded for their consistent efforts in favour of humanist values, anti-militarism and principles of law.
- Nobel Peace Prize is awarded by a committee elected by the Norwegian Parliament.

Places in News: India

Rajasthan

- Tiger shifted from Ranthambore to Sariska Tiger Reserve.
- National Monument Status sought for the Mangarh Dham.

Uttarakhand

- Avalanche occurred in Kedar Peak area of Chorabari glacial lake region, Rudraprayag.
- PM laid foundation of connectivity project from Mana Village to Mana Pass.

Madhya Pradesh

- Mahakal Lok corridor project Phase I inaugurated at Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain.
- Durgavati Tiger Reserve approved for tigers of Panna Tiger Reserve.

North-East

- AFSPA being retained in parts of Assam, Arunachal, Manipur, Nagaland.

Gujarat

- Modhera declared as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village.
- PM reviews progress of National Maritime Heritage Complex site at Lothal.

Uttar Pradesh

- Terai Elephant Reserve to come up as India's 33rd elephant reserve.

Odisha

- NGT has directed to revive the Sukapaika river.

Lakshadweep

- Two new beaches - Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach- gets Blue Flag Certification.

Tamil Nadu

- India's first sanctuary for slender lorises notified.

Kerala

- Centre has deployed a high-level team to Kerala to investigate Avian Influenza Outbreak.

Places in News: World

Israel
Israel and Lebanon signed a maritime agreement.

Kerch strait
During ongoing Russia Ukraine war blast took place on Kerch Bridge.

Lebanon
Israel and Lebanon signed a maritime agreement.

Kyrgyzstan
Kyrgyzstan has cancelled Indestructible Brotherhood-2022 military exercises.

Philippines
Storm Nalgae has triggered flash floods and mudslides.

Egypt
Egyptian archaeologists have renewed a call for the return of the Rosetta Stone from the British Museum.

Kenya
Indian envoy meets Kenya's President in relation to disappearance of two Indian nationals.

Yemen
India expressed disappointment over non-agreement between warring parties.

Burkina Faso
Witnessed a coup by military.

Gambia
India has launched an investigation on death of children in Gambia due to Indian Cough Syrup.

Tunisia
Political protests erupted against the President.

Hawaii
Recent spike in earthquakes at the world's largest active volcano, Mauna Loa

Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)
Cold Ocean currents protect Galápagos Islands from global warming.