

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)

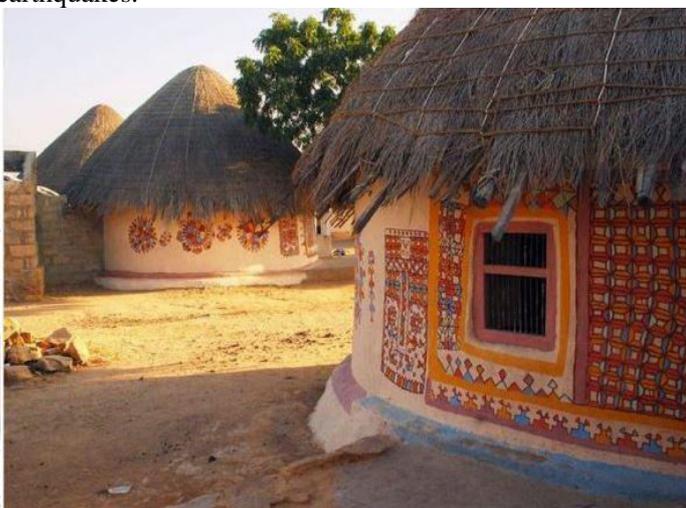
CONTEXT:The Prime Minister inaugurated the 3rd Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in New Delhi.

Highlights of the Session

- The main theme of the session is “Building Local Resilience in a Changing Climate”.
- The PM also felicitated awardees of the Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar.
- The PM gave an example of Bhunga houses of Kutch which survived the earthquake to a large extent.

Bhunga Houses of Kutch

- After the devastating earthquake of 1819, the people of Kutch came up with an innovative circular design of bhungas to minimize the damage to their lives as well as properties.
- They are traditional houses, a unique type of round mud hut walled with thatched roof.
- The reworked design of bhungas that is about 200 years old stood very firm during the earthquake of 2001 when it was very close to the epicenter.
- These houses are commonly called ‘Architecture without Architect’ because of the superior architectural knowledge gained by the locals through the years.
- The design of the house is such that it keeps the interior cool in summers and warm in winters and they are tremendously strong and can withstand natural calamities like desert storms and earthquakes.



About NPDRR

- It is a multi-stakeholder platform constituted by the Government of India in 2013 to facilitate dialogue, sharing experiences, views, ideas, action-oriented research & explore opportunities in the area of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
- It aims to bring together the whole range of India’s disaster risk community from Government, Parliamentarians, Mayors, Media, International Organizations, NGOs, local community representatives, scientific and academic institutions and corporate businesses etc.
- The output from the National Platform will offer a strategic direction and a road map for the formulation of the future National Action Plans on DRR.

Functions

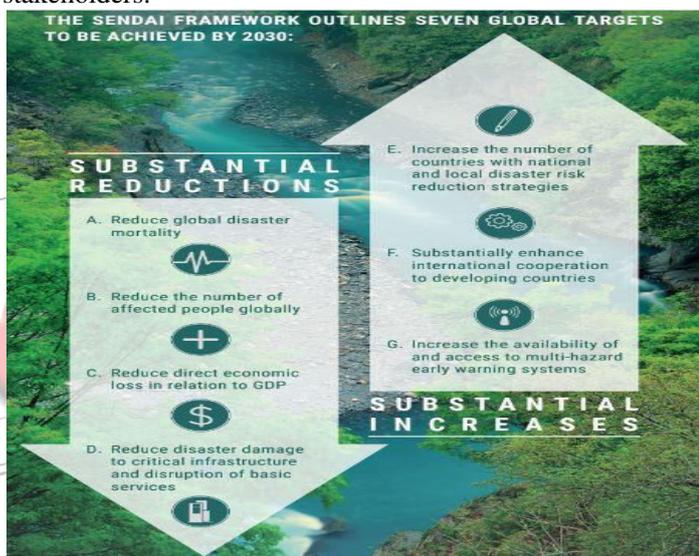
- To review the progress made in the field of disaster management from time to time.
- To appreciate the extent and manner in which the Disaster Management Policy has been implemented by the Central and State Governments, and other concerned agencies, and to give appropriate advice in the matter.
- To advise on coordination between the Central and State Governments/UT Administrations, local self-governments and civil society organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- To advice suo-moto or on a reference made by the Central Government or any other State Government or a Union territory Administration on any question pertaining to disaster management.
- To review the National Disaster Management Policy.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

- It is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.
- DRR strategies and policies define goals and objectives across different timescales and with concrete targets, indicators and time frames.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

- It is a global, agreed policy of disaster risk reduction and is set out in the United Nations endorsed Sendai Framework adopted in March 2015 in Sendai Japan, whose expected outcome over the next 15 years is:
 - The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.
- It was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster.
- The Sendai Framework works hand in hand with the other 2030 Agenda agreements, including The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, The Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the New Urban Agenda, and ultimately the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.



SOCIAL ISSUES

Adultery as misconduct and judicial musings:

CONTEXT: More than four years ago, the Supreme Court decriminalized adultery in its landmark judgment, Joseph Shine versus Union of India (2018).

Adultery:

- It is a voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than that person's current spouse or partner.
- Section 497 of the IPC: It mandates that whoever has sexual inter-course with the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting the offence of rape is guilty of the offence of adultery and shall be punished.
- The law does not punish his wife, since it presumes that only a man can seduce a woman into a sexual act, and that it is the husband who has suffered due to the sexual relationship of his wife, carried out without his consent.
- The wife is not protected from similar behavior committed by her husband.

Joseph Shine versus Union of India(2018):

- It held Section 497 of the Indian Penal Code (on adultery) along with Section 198 of the Criminal Procedure Code to be unconstitutional on the premise that these provisions were violet of Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

Order concerning its implementation in the armed forces:

- The government sought clarification from the Court: Any promiscuous or adulterous acts should be allowed to be governed by the relevant sections of the Army Act, the Air Force Act and the Navy Act being special legislations by the virtue of Article 33 of the Constitution.
- Article 33: Parliament has powers to restrict or abrogate the fundamental rights of certain categories of persons, including members of the armed forces to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them.
- The Court said that in Joseph Shine it 'was not at all concerned with the effect and operation of the relevant provisions' and 'it is not as if this Court approved of adultery'.
- The Court added that it found adultery as amoral (and civil) wrong and a ground for securing dissolution of marriage.

Other Judgements:

- Mahesh Chand Sharma versus State of Rajasthan and Others (2019): Court set aside the departmental proceedings against the petitioner who was serving as an inspector in the Rajasthan Police (after having served for 18 years in the Indian Air Force) and allegedly had illicit relations with one woman constable. The High Court held that no employer can be allowed to do moral policing on its employees which go beyond the domain of his public life and personal choices. Selections (to have sexual inter-course) cannot be a subject matter of departmental proceedings under the Service Conduct Rules.
- Maheshbhai Bhurjibhai Damor versus State of Gujarat and 3 other(s) (2022): Gujarat High Court quashed and set aside the dismissal order of an armed police constable (allegations that he had developed illicit relations with a widow) which amounted to misconduct.
- The departmental inquiry revealed that the relations between the two were voluntary and mutual, and there was no exploitation of the woman.
- The Court held that in order to prove misconduct, allegations must have some nexus, direct or indirect, with the duties to be performed by the government servant.
- The alleged act was a private affair, and not a result of any coercive pressure.
- The act of the petitioner at the most could be considered as an immoral act not as misconduct as per Conduct Rules.

Way Forward

- Article 33 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to restrict the fundamental rights of the members of the armed forces, the caveat of 'so as to ensure the proper discharge of their duties and the maintenance of discipline among them' cannot be overlooked.
- Neither did the Joseph Shine verdict of 2018 inhibit the parameters of departmental proceedings nor has the clarification. A common thread running through all relevant judgments is that if the conduct interferes directly or indirectly with the honest discharge of duties; such conduct may be considered as unbecoming of a government servant.
- The legislative intent of Article 33 of the Constitution is also similar.
- The sacrosanct right to privacy available to the members of the armed forces (and the policemen engaged in the maintenance of public order) cannot be taken away under the guise of the special legislations unless it has some nexus with their duties.

PRELIMS

1. INS Sahyadri:

Context: The Navy's guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri joined two frontline warships of France in carrying out a two-day maritime partnership exercise in the Arabian Sea.

About INS Sahyadri:

- INS Sahyadri is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, which makes her capable of detecting and neutralising air, surface and sub-surface threat.
- INS Sahyadri (F49) is a Shivalik-class stealth multi-role frigate built for the Indian Navy.
- This class features improved stealth and land attack capabilities over the preceding Talwar-class frigates.

2. MOUNT MERAPI:

Context: Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupted with avalanches of searing gas clouds and lava, forcing authorities to halt tourism and mining activities on the slopes of the country's most active volcano.

About:

- Mount Merapi, is an active stratovolcano located on the border between the province of Central Java and the Special Region of Yogyakarta, It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.
- Merapi is the youngest in a group of volcanoes in southern Java. It is situated at a subduction zone, where the Indo-Australian Plate is subducting under the Sunda Plate.
- It is one of at least 129 active volcanoes in Indonesia, part of the volcano is located in the Southeastern part of the Pacific Ring of Fire—a section of fault lines stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and South East Asia.

3. LEAN Scheme:

Context: The Union Minister for MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) launched the MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme.

ABOUT:

- According to the Minister, LEAN aims to give India's MSMEs a road map to global competitiveness and has the potential to grow into a national movement.
- He mentioned that LEAN would work to transform manufacturing into top producers in addition to attempting to increase quality, productivity, and performance. MSME Competitive (LEAN) Scheme.
- This Initiative is an extensive effort to raise MSMEs' understanding of LEAN Manufacturing techniques, motivate and reward them for achieving LEAN levels, and inspire them.
- **Objective:** The primary objective of the Lean Manufacturing Competitiveness Scheme (LMCS) is to increase manufacturing competitiveness in the MSME Sector. To find and get rid of waste and streamline a system, lean manufacturing uses lean techniques.
- As part of the programme, MSMEs will adopt LEAN manufacturing tools such as 5S, Kaizen, KANBAN, Visual Workplace, PokaYoka, etc. under the skilful direction of trained and competent LEAN Consultants to achieve LEAN levels such as Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced.
- By adopting a LEAN approach, MSMEs can significantly lower waste, boost productivity, enhance quality, work safely, grow their markets, and eventually become competitive and profitable.
- Under the scheme, Government would cover 90% of implementation costs for coaching and consulting fees to support MSME For MSMEs located in the Northeast, owned by Women/SC/ST, and a part of SFURTI clusters, an additional 5% contribution will be made.
- A special feature is available to help Industry Organizations to urge their supply chain vendors to take part in this scheme.

ANSWER WRITING

QWhat is meant by "loss and damage" in the context of climate change? How will the recently concluded COP27 Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) help vulnerable countries to deal with the adverse effects of climate change?

INTRODUCTION: Loss and damage refers to the negative consequences that arise from the unavoidable risks of climate change, like rising sea levels, prolonged heat waves, desertification, the acidification of the sea and extreme events, such as bushfires, species extinction and crop failures. As the climate crisis unfolds, these events will happen more and more frequently, and the consequences will become more severe. Recently, COP27 in Egypt ended with a historic deal to establish a fund to respond to loss and damage, particularly nations most vulnerable to the climate change effects. Potential of loss and damage fund in helping vulnerable countries to deal with the adverse effects of climate change:

- The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) has great potential to alleviate the severe shocks due to climate change in vulnerable countries.
- LDF is an essential aspect for climate justice and helps to address the geographic imbalance between the cause and effect of climate crisis.
- The development of LDF also presents an opportunity to apply best practices and streamline access and distribution right from the design phase.
- The countries likely to be most supported include Small Island developing states, a group of low-lying coastal and small island countries who are among the nations least responsible for climate change having contributed less than 1% to the world's GHGs and who first began calling for the establishment of a loss and damage fund.

- It would also support Least developed countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh and Nepal and developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change such as Pakistan.
- The fund is likely to draw on contributions from developed countries to get it started with a scope for identifying and expanding diverse sources of funding including the private sector and philanthropies.
- Some traditional financing instruments could be used to deal with loss and damage. Social protection, contingency finance, catastrophe risk insurance and catastrophe bonds can provide a certain buffer and rapid pay-outs after disasters. However, more initiatives are needed to protect the vulnerable countries from adverse effects of climate change:
- Fund is not an answer if the climate crisis washes a small island State off the map - or turns an entire African country into a desert. An effective and just energy transition partnership is needed to speed up the phasing out of coal and scaling up renewable.
- For the fund to be effective, the root cause of climate change must be tackled - and that involves reducing emissions. Unless emissions are drastically reduced, more and more countries will face the devastating effects of climate change.
- The world urgently needs to find more resources for mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage so that climate change will not erode humanity's chances to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- It is also important that a Loss and Damage Fund tackles the gaps that current climate finance institutions such as the Green Climate Fund do not fill.

Conclusion: Thus, recently concluded COP27 loss and damage fund will help in addressing the fundamental injustice as the countries least responsible are carrying the costs of climate change. India should also get this fund as it is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. According to Germanwatch's findings, India is the seventh-most vulnerable country with respect to climate extremes. However, the EU, the US had emphasized during the COP27 negotiations that nations that are both high GHG emitters but are still considered developing (such as India and China) should also pay into the fund, including newly wealthy countries Saudi Arabia, Singapore and South Korea. But, India had demanded a ten-fold increase in the annual climate finance. India, along with other participants, reiterated that long-term, concessional, and climate-specific allocation between adaptation and mitigation is required

MCQs

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to INS Sahyadri?
 1. It is a Kaveri-class stealth multi-role frigate built for the Indian Navy.
 2. It is capable of detecting and neutralising air, surface and sub-surface threats.
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) **Neither 1 nor 2**
2. Recently the news START treaty was in the news, it is between which of the following two countries?
 - a) Russia and India
 - b) USA and India
 - c) China and India
 - d) **Russia and USA**
3. Consider the following statement about bamboo crash barrier.
 1. World's first bamboo crash barrier installed on Maharashtra highway.
 2. It has been called as "BahuBalli"
 Which of the following statement is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) **Both 1 and 2**
 - d) None of the above
4. Consider the following statement about bamboo crash barrier.
 1. It will be the world's first cross-border carbon capture storage (CCS) project.
 2. It was injected into a depleted oil field in the Danish North sea as part of project Greensand.
 3. It is function at Denmark's north sea.
 Which of the following statement is/are correct?
 - a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2

- c) 2 and 3
d) **All of the above**
5. Who has taken charge of an independent field workshop in a forward and remote location in eastern Ladak.
- a) **Colonel GeetaRana**
b) Colonel SeetaRana
c) Colonel MeetaRana
d) Colonel ReetaRana
6. Consider the following statements regarding Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols missions (MAIA):
1. Mission will investigate the health impacts of air pollution in the world's most populated cities.
 2. MAIA marks an important moment in the long history of cooperation between NASA and ESA.
- Which of the following statements are correct ?
- (a) **1 only** (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. With which of the following state "AttukalPongala" is associated :
- (a) Tamil Nadu
(b) **Kerala**
(c) Karnataka
(d) Andhra Pradesh
8. Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) is seen in relation with:
- (a) Pakistan, Russia and China
(b) Australia, India and Russia
(c) Japan, US and Australia
(d) **Australia, Japan and India**
9. With reference to the recent amendments in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) consider the following statements:
1. The Finance Ministry has amended money laundering rules to incorporate more disclosures for non-governmental organisations by reporting entities like financial institutions, banking companies or intermediaries.
 2. It has defined "politically exposed persons" (PEPs) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in line with the recommendations of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
- (a) **Only 1**
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
10. Which of the following statements with reference to 'safe harbour', recently seen in news, is/are correct?
1. It is prescribed under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 as a legal immunity that online intermediaries enjoy against content posted by users on their platforms.
 2. The concept originally came from Section 230 of the United States' Communications Decency Act, which has been termed "one of the foundational laws behind the modern Internet".
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) **Both 1 and 2**
(d) Neither 1 nor 2