

**POLITY**
**Preventive Detention**

**CONTEXT:**As Telangana prepares for Assembly elections, its strict preventative detention law is being scrutinized.

**What is Preventive Detention?**

- Preventive detention means to detain a person so that to prevent that person from committing on any possible crime.
- It is a move taken by the administration on the suspicion that the individual in question will commit some wrongdoing that will be detrimental to the state.
- The grounds for Preventive detention are
  - State security, public order maintenance, supply and essential services maintenance, and defense
  - India's foreign policy or security.

***Punitive Detention –***

*It is used to punish a person for an offense committed following a court trial and conviction.*

**The Constitution Provides Safeguards**

- Certain safeguards are specified in the constitution under Article 22 to avoid the indiscriminate use of Preventive Detention:
  - In the first instance, a person may be placed in preventive custody for no more than three months. If the detention period exceeds three months, the case must be referred to an Advisory Board.
  - The prisoner has the right to know the reasons for his detention. However, if it is in the public interest, the state may refuse to provide the reasons for detention.
  - The authorities holding the detainee must provide the detainee with early chances to make representation against the detention.

**Issues With Preventive Detention**

- Colonial Law: During the colonial period, preventive detention was introduced to India and was mostly utilized to target independence fighters. As a result, it may appear strange that the Constitution authorizes both the union and the states to implement preventative detention statutes.
- Misuse of the Law: If it is in the public interest, the state may refuse to provide the reasons for detention. Needless to add, the authority granted to the state allows for arbitrary action on the side of the authorities.
- Against Fundamental Rights: Part III of the Constitution, which addresses fundamental rights, also grants the authority to suspend certain rights for preventative detention.
  - Article 22 specifically excludes preventive detention cases from direct judicial inspection, instead establishing an administrative review structure.
- Detention on Suspicion: The law allows the executive to arrest anyone who has a reasonable suspicion that he would conduct any cognizable offense, and the police can arrest that individual without a warrant, which is arbitrary in nature.
- Preventive detention is a wartime measure in countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. India is one of the few countries in the world where preventive detention is permitted during times of peace.

**Way Forward**

- For preventive detention, there are very narrow grounds of judicial review because the Constitution emphasises the state's "subjective satisfaction" when ordering a detention.
- More precautions should be offered to the inmate to limit the scope of abuse.
- While exercising preventative detention powers against individuals, judges should confirm that the government has followed all legal procedures.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP**
**Sri Lanka Announces Free Visas**

**CONTEXT:**Sri Lanka has approved a policy to issue free tourist Visas to travelers from India and six other countries.

**About:**

- As a pilot project, Sri Lanka will begin issuing free visas to India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand on March 31, 2024.
- The move is part of Sri Lanka's efforts to increase visitor arrivals and rehabilitate its economy.
  - After the Easter Sunday terror attacks in 2019, the Covid pandemic in 2020 and 2021, and the severe economic crisis in 2022, Sri Lanka's tourism business is trying to recover.
  - Prior to the pandemic, tourism was Sri Lanka's third-largest source of foreign cash inflows, contributing for around 5% of the country's GDP.

**India and Sri Lanka Relations**

- Trade Relations: India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) signed in 2000 encouraged the expansion of trade between the two countries.

- India has traditionally been one of Sri Lanka's greatest commercial partners, and Sri Lanka remains one of India's largest SAARC trade partners.
- India is also one of the largest contributors to Foreign Direct Investment in Sri Lanka.
- Maritime Security and Defense Cooperation: The Colombo Security Conclave was established in 2011.
  - India and Sri Lanka hold a joint military exercise known as 'Mitra Shakti,' a trilateral maritime exercise known as "Dosti," and a naval exercise known as SLINEX.
- Connectivity Projects: The two sides have adopted a vision plan to improve marine, energy, and people-to-people connectivity.
  - In terms of marine connectivity, the two sides intend to work together to build ports and logistics facilities in Colombo, Trincomalee, and Kankesanthurai in order to combine regional logistics and shipping.
  - There are plans to build a land bridge connecting the two countries to give India land access to the ports of Trincomalee and Colombo in order to stimulate economic growth.
- Multilateral Forum Collaboration: India and Sri Lanka are members of several regional and multilateral organizations, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, the South Asian Economic Union, and BIMSTEC, all of which work to strengthen cultural and commercial ties.

**Areas of Concern:**

- The fishermen Issue: Due to Sri Lanka's proximity to Indian territorial waters, fisherman on both sides have frequently crossed the line in their search of fish stock.
  - A Joint Working Group on Fisheries (JWG) mechanism has been in place since 2016 to address the urgent concerns of both sides' fishermen and to find a permanent solution to the issue.
- Indian Ocean Geopolitics: Because the region is home to 35% of the world's population and its seas carry two-thirds of the world's oil exports and half of the world's container cargo, the Indian Ocean has gained importance in major nations' strategic calculus.
  - In recent years, Sri Lanka has identified nuanced geopolitical and strategic competition in the IOR between the US, China, and India as a potential threat to its security interests in the region



- The rise of China has been a source of concern, as has China's rising strategic investment in important maritime ports in the IOR.
  - Despite Sri Lanka's assurances, India's key worries are transparency in project completion and prospective military use of ports by China.
- Fear of Indian dominance over Sri Lankan territory has been a reality since the country's independence. The level of fear may have decreased, but the trust gap persists.

**Way Forward:**

- Despite a few failures, both nations recognize the need of strengthening bilateral ties, and a policy statement issued by the Sri Lanka Mission in India in 2021 was a significant step.
- The economic crisis and political chaos in Sri Lanka last year prompted India to step in with help, as Beijing looked the other way.
- However, the challenge for India is in maintaining a balance between its own interests and the interests of Sri Lanka.
- Despite their various foreign policy inclinations, both India and Sri Lanka appear to be able to manage the strategic pulls and pressures in their relations thus far.

**PRELIM FACTS**

**1. Dengue vaccine**

**Context:** Dengue cases have been reported in various Indian states recently.

**Highlights:**

- Dengue is a vector-borne disease transmitted by the bite of an infected female Aedes Aegypti

- The mosquito becomes infected when it feeds on the blood of a person infected with the virus.
- There are 4 serotypes of the virus that cause dengue.
  - These are known as DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4.
- Dengue cannot be spread directly from person to person.
- Most cases occur in tropical areas of the world,

**Vaccines:-**

- DNA vaccines induce an adaptive immune response. (Controlling Dengue Using Wolbachia Bacteria)
- They use engineered DNA to induce an immunologic response in the host against bacteria, parasites, viruses, and potentially cancer.

**2 Air quality index (AQI) and Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**

**Context:** Delhi's air quality improved marginally on Tuesday but remained in the 'poor' category and is likely to slip into the 'very poor' category by Wednesday, according to official data.

A reading between

0 and 50	on the AQI is considered 'good',
51 and 100	'satisfactory',
101 and 200	'moderate',
201 and 300	'poor',
301 and 400	'very poor',
401 and 500	'severe'.

**3. NANO DAP fertilizer**

**Context:** Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated India's first liquid nano di-ammonia phosphate (DAP) fertilizer plant.

**About nano DAP fertilizer:-**

- Place: Kalol in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. (India's first nano liquid fertilizer plant)
- It provides phosphorous nutrition throughout the crop growth and development cycle.

**Highlights:**

- Diammonium phosphate (DAP) is the world's most widely used phosphorus fertilizer. (Fertilizer sector in India)
- DAP is the second most consumed fertilizer in the country after urea.
- Nano-DAP will help to bring down India's fertilizer import bill.
- It is also expected to contribute to bringing down the annual subsidy on non-urea fertilizers.

**4.PM SVANidhi:**

**Context:**The research conducted by the SBI's Group Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh notes the inclusive nature of this scheme and highlights how it has led to financial empowerment

**Highlights:**

- This is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

**Beneficiaries:** Street vendors/ hawkers vending in urban areas, as on or before March 24, 2020, including the vendors of surrounding peri-urban and rural areas.

**Objectives:**

- To facilitate working capital loan up to `10,000 at subsidized rate of interest;
- To incentivize regular repayment of loan; and
- To reward digital transactions.

The Scheme was implemented up to March, 2022.

**5.Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI"**

**Context:**Joint bilateral training exercise "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023", between Indian & Malaysian Army commenced today in Umroi Cantonment, India.

**Highlights:**

**About:**

- "Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI" is aimed to enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.
- It will also foster the bilateral relations between the two nations.
- Both sides will rehearse employment of joint forces in jungle/ semi urban / urban environment.

In addition, intelligence collection, collation and dissemination drills will also be rehearsed. The Exercise will also witness employment of Drones/UAVs & Helicopters.

**ANSWER WRITTING**

**Q.Discuss ethical concerns associated with "human shields" and "forced displacement" in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict in the light of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) .**

**Introduction:**

International humanitarian law also regarded as the law of war. It limits armed conflict for humanitarian region. It protects non-combatants.

**Body:**

**Human Shields:** In IHL, “human shields” refer to civilians or other protected persons that are leveraged against military targets. This can include forcing them to stay near military targets or placing military targets in or near buildings with civilians.

- Using human shields is considered a war crime and is banned under International Humanitarian Law. It is also prohibited to target or attack human shields. Geneva conventions sees human shield as war crime.

**Forced Displacement:** Forced displacement involves the ordering of civilians to evacuate from a certain area due to reasons related to the conflict. The order to forcibly transfer civilians, especially without guarantees of safety or return, is considered unlawful under IHL.

**Ethical Issues:** Using human shields in war raises ethical concerns by endangering innocent civilians for military gain. Forced displacements can be morally problematic when civilians are uprooted without guarantees of safety or return, impacting their well-being and rights.

**MCQs**

1. With reference to technological interventions to curb air pollution in India, consider the following statements:
  1. Dust suppressants are composed of sulfur salts, which are mixed with water and then sprayed on roads.
  2. Wind Augmentation and Air Purifying Unit (WAYU) technology aims to neutralize pollutants through ionization processes.
  3. Smog towers are air purifiers that target the reduction of particulate matter and pollutants in large urban locality.How many of the statements given above are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
2. Consider the following statements regarding the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA):
  1. It is a scientific advisory body under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
  2. It assists the Conference of the Parties (COP) and other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the CBD.Which of the statements given above is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
3. Which of the following group of states find mention in ‘Sixth Schedule’ of constitution?  
a) Assam, Sikkim, Tripura, and Mizoram.  
b) Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram.  
c) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram  
d) None of the above
4. Which of the following is/are constituents of Air Quality Index(AQI)?
  1. Ammonia
  2. Lead
  3. Sulfur dioxide
  4. Carbon monoxideSelect the correct answer using the code given below:  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1, 3 and 4 only  
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
5. ‘Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)’ is under the aegis of:  
a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.  
b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India  
c) Ministry of Finance  
d) None of the above
6. Who chaired the 43rd edition of PRAGATI meeting  
a) Narendra Modi  
b) Amit Shah  
c) Rajanth Singh  
d) Nirmala Sitharaman
7. Where is the India's first women's police station located?  
a) Kozhikade, Kerala  
b) Mysuru, Karnataka  
c) Korba, Chattisparh  
d) Khardha, Odisha
8. Ken –Betwa a link canal passes through which National Park?  
a) Bandhavgarh National park  
b) Kanha national park  
c) Panna national park  
d) Pench national park
9. With reference to the Collegium system in India, consider the following statements:
  1. The collegium system governs the appointment and transfer of judges in the subordinate courts.
  2. The collegium system is based on the principle of judicial independence.
  3. A reiterated decision by the Collegium holds legal authority and is mandatory for the government to implement.Which of the statements given above are correct? :  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3
10. With reference to the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), consider the following statements:
  1. It is a pipeline project for transporting oil and gas from the eastern states of India to the western states.
  2. It is being constructed by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL).
  3. The corridor runs from Alwar in Rajasthan to Giridih in Jharkhand.How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None