POLITY

Context: Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 Acquisition and Determination of Indian Citizenship, Amendments of Citizenship Act, 1955.

In News, why?
- Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 has been the subject of several petitions that have been brought before a Constitution Bench chaired by the Chief Justice of India.
- The Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) is not the subject of the Constitution Bench's analysis; rather, it is restricted to evaluating the legality of Section 6A.

What does the Citizenship Act of 1955's Section 6A mean?
Background:
- After the Assam Accord of 1985, Section 6A was passed as a part of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985.
- The Assam Accord was a tripartite agreement that aimed to stop the flood of undocumented migrants from Bangladesh between the leaders of the Assam Movement, the State Government of Assam, and the Central Government.

The Assam Accord, which was concluded in 1985, added Section 6A—exclusive to Assam—to the Citizenship Act of 1955.
- The issue of mass migration that existed prior to the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 is addressed in this provision. Interestingly, it requires the identification and expulsion of foreigners who entered Assam after March 25, 1971, the day Bangladesh was established.
- Section 6A was introduced in response to the unique historical and demographic issues that Assam was facing at this crucial juncture.

Recommendations and provisions:
- Assam was granted a unique provision under Section 6A, which declared that anyone of Indian descent who arrived in Bangladesh before to January 1, 1966, were considered Indian citizens on that day.
- Indian-origin individuals who arrived in Assam between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971, and were found to be foreigners, had to register and, after ten years of residency, were granted citizenship, subject to specific requirements.
- Anyone entering Assam after March 25, 1971, was required by law to be identified and removed.

Problems:
Article 6:
- Constitutional Validity: The petitioners contend that Section 6A violates Article 6 of the Constitution.
- Citizenship issues pertaining to migration from Pakistan to India during the split are covered under Article 6 of the Indian Constitution.
- According to the article, anyone who immigrated to India before July 19, 1949, and whose parents or ancestors were born there immediately became an Indian citizen.
- This calls into question the provision's constitutionality and legality.

Article 14:
- Opponents claim that Section 6A might be in violation of the Constitution's Article 14, which protects the right to equality.
- Because it excludes Assam from consideration for certain citizenship requirements, the rule is seen as discriminatory.
- The only state to which the clause applies is Assam, and this selective application raises questions about fairness and equality in relation to other governments dealing with comparable migratory difficulties.

Impact of Demographics:
- Some petitioners argue that the citizenship issuance under Section 6A is to blame for the flood of undocumented migrants entering Assam from Bangladesh.
- The unintended consequence of promoting illegal immigration and its subsequent impact on the demographic mix of the state are the main causes for concern.

1

- The petitioners contend that the Assamese migrant population's citizenship is being granted in violation of Section 6A, so "cementing an illegality."
- They contend that by recognizing these people as citizens, the provision has had a multiplier effect, resulting in an ongoing flood.

Cultural Influence:
- The petitioners contend that Assamese culture was negatively impacted by a drastic shift in the country's demographics brought about by the incentives provided to cross-border migrants between 1966 and 1971.

Citizenship: What Is It?
- **About:** The legal status and connection that confers particular rights and obligations upon an individual and a state is known as citizenship.

Articles of the Constitution:
- Part II of the Indian Constitution covers citizenship in its entirety in Articles 5 through 11. These include naturalization, birth, descent, registration, and renunciation and termination as ways to obtain or lose citizenship.
- According to the Constitution, citizenship is included in the Union List and falls solely under the purview of Parliament.

Citizenship Act:
- To govern Indian citizenship issues, the Parliament passed the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Since it was first passed, the Citizenship Act of 1955 has undergone six amendments. The years 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, 2015, and 2019 saw the revisions made.
- The most recent modification was implemented in 2019, granting citizenship to specific undocumented migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who belonged to the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, and Christian communities and entered India on or before December 31, 2014.

Conclusion:
The citizenship act 1955 is an important act as it provides the identity of an individual belonging to a particular place or nation. It helps to provide the individual with the basic rights they need. The citizenship act 1955 is very important as it provides the fundamental rights of the Indian nation to its individual. The regular amendment of the law and the proper regulation of the act has made the citizenship act 1955 unique and sustainably run the nation despite several social issues

GOVERNANCE

CONTEXT: Chennai Alert

Introduction:
Life in Chennai has been interrupted by Cyclone Michaung. The flooding crisis induced by the excessive rainfall has now become an annual occurrence in Chennai.

The current state of affairs in Chennai
- Inundations brought on by the heavy rains submerged homes, disrupted communication, and resulted in the deaths of at least 20 individuals.
- A growing sense of despair has been felt throughout the city as a result of power outages, protests, and the fact that some areas are still under water more than 48 hours after the rain stopped. Other communities are also affected.

The activity of local and state administrations
- In comparison to the 2015 floods that killed over 400 people in Chennai, the state government said it moved more quickly this time.
- Additionally, it has stated that after relocating residents of low-lying areas to shelters, waters from the reservoirs were released.

Challenges before administration
- The district government of Chennai has attributed a significant portion of the problem to the sea forcing water back through the canals. That is a flimsy defence.

2

- Coastal cities are accustomed to high tides. The capital of Tamil Nadu is situated in a rain-shadow region; cyclonic storms and other northeast monsoon precipitation account for the majority of the state's precipitation.
- Like many other regions of the nation, Chennai has seen brief but heavy periods of rain in recent years.
- The largest obstacle facing the city planners is that.

How is the administration approaching the issue?

- The city administration of Chennai is claiming that the regions with the new drains avoided floods while the Tamil Nadu government works on building a storm water drainage system throughout the city.
- After starting in 2017, the Rs 4,500 crore project is still ongoing, with about two thirds of Chennai still not connected to the new network.
- The state administration should be compelled to speed the drainage rehabilitation system in light of the suffering caused by the most recent floods.
- Building the city's defences—which are vulnerable to flooding—will take more work. Experts had suggested that planners should reconsider building projects on wetlands following the 2015 floods.
- By absorbing water and replenishing aquifers, these sponges can help lessen Chennai's other urgent issue—the scarcity of drinking water.
- However, there isn't much proof that the city authorities followed this recommendation.

Actions Chennai can take to prevent urban flooding:

Temporary:

- Regularly clearing and desilting the current drainage channels and canals is one way to improve the drainage system.
- Increasing the drainage system's capacity to manage larger water volumes.
- Constructing storm drains and new pumping stations in low-lying locations.
- Removal of encroachments: Clearing land near rivers and floodplains to permit water to flow naturally.
- This involves moving companies and unofficial communities situated in high-risk locations for flooding.
- Forecasting and warning methods for flooding:
- Putting in place real-time rainfall and canal and river water level monitoring.
- Constructing precise flood prediction models to provide locals timely notice.
- Putting in place a productive communication infrastructure to spread alerts and instructions to evacuate.
- Community awareness and readiness: Putting awareness campaigns into action to tell locals about the risks of flooding and what they can do to be prepared.
- Regularly holding evacuation drills and simulated emergencies to get communities ready for emergencies.
- Establishing emergency response teams and early warning systems inside the community.

Long-range:

- Stricter land-use laws should be implemented in conjunction with urban planning to avoid development in regions that are vulnerable to flooding.
- Encouraging the construction of retention ponds and green areas to collect rainwater.
- Encouraging the use of paving materials that are permeable to let water seep into the soil.
- Climate-resilient infrastructure refers to the planning of new construction, including buildings and roads, to withstand flooding.
- Boosting the elevation of vital infrastructure, such hospitals and power plants.
- Putting money into renewable energy sources to lessen reliance on fossil fuels and slow down global warming.
- Natural remedies:

3

- Re-establishing wetlands, such as mangroves, to serve as organic sponges and flood-resistant barriers.
- Encouraging groundwater recharging and rooftop rainwater collection will decrease the load on drainage systems.
- Putting money into environmentally friendly farming methods to enhance soil quality and lower runoff.

Additional measures:
- Fostering public-private partnerships: Encouraging cooperation in the execution of flood mitigation initiatives between the public and private sectors and community organizations.
- Funding programs for flood mitigation:
- Investigating a range of financing alternatives, including international aid, green bonds, and public-private partnerships.
- Research and development: Allocating funds for the investigation and creation of novel flood control technologies and strategies.

Conclusion

Meteorological organizations have risen to the occasion in the last five years by providing timely cyclone alerts. Urban planners must move quickly. The floods that occurred in Chennai due to the rainfall caused by Cyclone Michaung need to serve as a warning.

PRELIM FACTS

1. Hatti community

Context: On December 16, a group representing the Hatti community in Himachal Pradesh is planning a protest march to raise awareness of their demands for the passage of legislation designating them as a Scheduled Tribe (ST)

Regarding the Hatti neighborhood:
- The Hattis are a close-knit group of people who got their name from their custom of selling wool, meat, vegetables, and home-grown crops at little towns called "haats."
- Traditionally, Hatti men wear a characteristic white headdress during ceremonial events.
- The Giri and Tons river basins, which are both Yamuna tributaries, form the border between Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where the Hatti homeland is situated.
- The Tons marks the border between the two states, and the Hattis living in the Trans-Giri area in today's Himachal Pradesh and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were once part of the royal estate of Sirmaur. Jaunsar Bawar was conquered by the British in 1814.
- The two Hatti clans, in Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are common.
- They are governed by a traditional council called 'khumbli' which decides community matters. According to the 2011 census, members of the community numbered 2.5 lakh but at present population of the Hattis are estimated at around 3 lakhs.
- The Hattis who now reside in the Trans-Giri region of modern-day Himachal Pradesh and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand are descendants of the Sirmaur royal estate, and the Tons serve as the state's border. The British took control of Jaunsar Bawar in 1814.
- In Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, the two Hatti clans share customs and frequently get married to one another.
- A traditional council known as the "khumbli" is in charge of deciding issues pertaining to the community. Therefore, statement 3 is true.
- The population of the Hattis is estimated to be around 3 lakhs at the moment, while 2.5 lakh people were counted in the community in the 2011 census.

2. Global Artificial Intelligence Partnership (GPAI)

Context:
- From December 12–14, 2023, India will host the Annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit.

4

Concerning the Worldwide Collaboration on Artificial Intelligence:
- This multi-stakeholder effort supports innovative research and applied activities on AI-related topics with the goal of bridging the gap between theory and practice.
- The launch took place in June 2020.
- All nations, particularly emerging and developing nations, are welcome to join GPAI.
- Participating nations: Currently, it consists of 28 members, including the EU.
- One of the original members of GPAI is India.
    - **Secretariat**:
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris serves as the organization's home base.
    - **Organization**
- It is governed by a steering committee and council.
- Its two centers of expertise are located in Paris and Montreal, respectively.
- The four working groups of GPAI, along with their research and practical projects in a variety of fields and disciplines, will be supported by these centers of expertise.
- Initially, four themes will be the focus of the working groups:
- AI Data Governance: A Responsible Approach to Future Work Innovation and Commercialization

3. The DRESS Syndrome

Context:
The usage of the analgesic mefenamic acid can result in Drug Reactions with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) Syndrome. This is according to a recent drug safety advisory issued by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) for physicians and patients.

About the Syndrome of DRESS:
- It's a kind of pharmaceutical allergy that can react to a wide range of drugs.
- DIHS, or drug-induced hypersensitivity syndrome, is another name for it.
- A wide range of clinical symptoms are caused by this syndrome, and they appear two to eight weeks after the offending medicine is started.

Symptoms:
- The most common symptoms that patients experience are rash, fever, and eosinophilia, but they might also experience involvement of the kidney, liver, or lungs.
- Possess a visceral involvement as well, which is the primary source of morbidity and mortality in this illness. These include colitis, hepatitis, pneumonitis, myocarditis, pericarditis, and nephritis.

Treatment:
- Stopping the medicine causing the reaction is the most crucial step in treating DRESS Syndrome. In certain cases, this is all that is required.
- The majority of the time, it is supportive and symptomatic; corticosteroids and occasionally immunosuppressants like cyclosporine are utilized.

Regarding the Commission for Indian Pharmacopoeia:
- It is an independent institution under the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It was made to establish national drug standards.

Uses:
- Its primary duty is to update the standards of widely needed medications for the treatment of illnesses that are common in this area on a regular basis.
- It releases formal guidelines for enhancing the quality of medications by revising and adding to the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), a collection of monographs.
- By releasing the National Formulary of India, it further encourages the sensible use of generic medications.
- It specifies requirements for the identity, purity, and strength of medications that are fundamentally necessary for both human and animal health care.

5

- Moreover, IP Reference Substances (IPRS), which function as a fingerprint, are provided for identification of an article under test and its purity as prescribed in IP.

4. PM-USHA stands for Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan.

Context:

- The Odisha Chief Minister was recently asked to implement the PM-USHA program for higher education in the state by the Union Education Minister.
- Regarding the PM-USHA, or Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan:
- It began as a centrally funded initiative in 2013 with the goal of enhancing higher education's accessibility, equity, and quality through state-level higher education development that is planned.
- Working with more than 300 state institutions and their connected colleges is its goal.
- The goals are to establish new academic institutions, upgrade and extend the ones that already exist, and build professionally managed, highly research-oriented institutions that can stand alone in providing high-quality education.

Funding:

- Its goal is to give state higher education institutions that qualify for it strategic funding.
- The central funding is outcome-dependent and based on norms.
- Before money reaches the designated institutions, it passes via state and union territory administrations and the federal ministry.
- The critical evaluation of State Higher Education Plans, which identify each state's approach to addressing concerns of fairness, access, and excellence in higher education, would serve as the foundation for funding allocations to the states.
- Enhancing the quality of teaching and learning processes is a priority for PM-USHA in order to generate competitive and employable postgraduates, PhDs, and graduates.
- The program incorporates best practices from colleges and universities around the country and focuses on state higher education institutions.

5. Financial Stability Report (FSR) :

- Every two years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) releases the Financial Stability Report (FSR).
- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) Sub-Committee's (FSDC) collective evaluation of the financial system's resilience and hazards to financial stability is reflected in the FSR.
- According to the research, the nation's financial system is nevertheless stable in spite of the dangers associated with geopolitical developments and slowing domestic GDP.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Discuss the challenges arising due to the increased frequency of disasters in India. What are the various legal and institutional measures in place to deal with disaster management?

India's unique geo-climatic conditions and high socio-economic vulnerability to calamities are responsible for the increased frequency of natural disasters. According to a report by the Centre for Environment, India witnessed some form of natural disaster every day in the year 2022 during a time span of nine months. This includes disasters from heat and cold waves, cyclones and lightning to heavy rains, floods and landslides. The frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and heat waves is further projected to rise manifolds in India due to climate change.

Challenges resulting from India's heightened frequency of natural disasters include:

- **Economic challenges**: The destruction of homes, businesses, and infrastructure during disasters results in large-scale financial losses. Rising temperatures and a lot of rain may force India to spend 2.8% of its GDP. Consequently, natural disasters seriously jeopardize India's economic progress in addition to having a negative impact on physical and human capital.
- **Impact on the environment**: Natural disasters can alter the ecosystem, resulting in the loss of habitat for a variety of plant and animal species as well as ecological stress that can eventually lead to a decline in biodiversity. Geophysical changes caused by disasters can also lead to soil erosion and an increase in vector-borne diseases.

- **Challenges for the local population**: Due to natural calamities, human life is badly affected. According to the World Bank's assessment, climate change and resulting hazards affect people living at low levels more. It has a severe impact on almost half of India's population.
- **Challenges for the agriculture sector:** According to the estimates of the government of India, there is a loss of 4.3 and 4.1 per cent in the income of farmers during the Kharif and Rabi crop seasons due to extreme temperature changes. Hence, natural disasters also increase farmer distress and are responsible for farmer suicides to a great extent due to crop damage.
- **Degradation and destruction of resources**: Large-scale destruction of resources, including property, livestock, crops, and infrastructure, is a result of disasters. Food and water shortages result from the lack of natural resources following disasters, including food.

The following are some of the institutional and legal measures in place for disaster management:

- **The Disaster Management Act of 2005:** The Act offers a robust disaster management framework for both natural and man-made calamities throughout the entirety of India. It stipulates the establishment of the following organizations at the federal, state, and local levels:
- **Authority for National Disaster Management (NDMA)**: Policy-making, approving national Disaster Management plans, creating recommendations for central ministries and state authorities to follow, and offering assistance to foreign nations hit by significant disasters are among the main responsibilities anticipated of the NDMA.
- State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA) are constituted at the state and district levels.
- The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is a pre-eminent organization that offers training and capacity building initiatives for both national and regional disaster management in India.
- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was established to provide specialized response during potentially dangerous disaster scenarios with the aid of qualified experts, such as rescuers, engineers, technicians, medical personnel, and dog squads.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs is the primary point of contact for all issues pertaining to disaster management. The Ministry of Home Affairs' Central Relief Commissioner (CRC) serves as the point of contact for coordinating relief efforts during disasters
- **Crisis Management Group (CMG):** The CMG's yearly duties include reviewing the backup plans created by different Ministries, Departments, and Organizations within their respective industries. In addition, it oversees the actions necessary to deal with natural catastrophes and synchronizes the Central Ministries' and State Governments' efforts for disaster assistance and preparation.
- The Cabinet Secretary is in charge of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC). When it is thought necessary, the NCMC directs the Crisis Management Group.
- **Contingency Action Plan:** The Government of India has developed and updated a National Contingency Action Plan to address potential situations that may arise during natural catastrophes. It makes it easier to start relief efforts right away

Conclusion

The failures to manage the disasters properly enhance the casualties. Effective disaster management should therefore rely on a thorough integration of emergency plans at all levels of government and non-government involvement. By investing in preparedness and mitigation measures, India can not only save lives but also reduce the economic and social impacts of disasters.

MCQs

1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)'
   1. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative which aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI by supporting cutting-edge research and applied activities on AI-related priorities.
   2. At present it has 28 member countries including the European Union.
   3. Recently, the grouping has accepted India's membership bid.
   How many of the above-mentioned statements are correct?
   a) Only one   **b) Only two**   c) All three   d) None
2. Consider the following statements regarding 'Hatti' community

7

1. The distinctive headgear (Hat) that the close-knit Hattis people wear gave them their name.
2. The Giri and Tons river basins, which are both Yamuna tributaries, form the border between Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where the Hatti homeland is situated.
3. A traditional council known as the "khumbli" is in charge of deciding issues pertaining to the community

How many of the above-mentioned statements are not correct?

a) Only one   b) Only two   c) All three   d) None

3. Recently, 'DRESS Syndrome' was in the news. It is related to which one of the following?
   a) Fashion industry   b) Workspace-related mental disorder
   c) Allergy from medicine   d) Depression among adolescent

4. Recently, 'PM-USHA' scheme was in the news. It is related to which one of the field?
   a) Education   b) Renewable energy source
   c) Women empowerment   d) Financial inclusion

5. Consider the following statements
   1) It is located in the Narmadapuram district of Madhya Pradesh in the south of the Narmada River.
   2) It is part of the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve.
   3) It has corridor connectivity with Pench National Park.
   4) The habitat is also an important testimony to human evolution, as it houses more than 50 rock shelters that are almost 1500 to 10,000 years old.
   The above-mentioned statements refer to which one of the followings?
   a) Kanha Tiger Reserve   b) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve
   c) Panna Tiger Reserve   **d) Satpura Tiger Reserve**

6. Recently seen in news, State of the Global Climate report is released by:
   a) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
   b) United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)
   c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC)
   d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

7. Often seen in news, the Financial Stability Report (FSR), is released by:
   a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)   b) State Bank of India (SBI)
   c) Ministry of Finance   d) NITI AAYOG

8. Regarding the Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF), consider the following statements:
   1. They can be triggered by several reasons, including earthquakes, extremely heavy rains and ice avalanches.
   2. It can also be caused by volcanic eruptions.
   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

9. Regarding the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), consider the following statements:
   1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
   2. It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere.
   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

10. With reference to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:
    1. It functions under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.
    2. It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.
    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