



**Date – 16 July 2022**

## **Service charges: CCPA**



- Recently, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued rules to avoid unfair trade practices and protect consumer interests in hotels and restaurants that assess service charges.

### ***Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):***

- It was established under the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) 2019.
- It reserves the right to control abuse of consumer rights, unfair trade practices and false or deceptive marketing that is harmful to the public interest.
- It has the power to protect, promote and most importantly prevent violation of the rights of consumers under Section 18 of the CPA, 2019 under the Act.
- Apart from this, it promotes consumer rights and ensures that no person indulges in unfair trade practices and it also has the right to issue guidelines to enforce the rights of consumers.

### ***New Guidelines:***

- According to this, there is a ban on charging additional charges automatically or by default in the bill in the name of service charge in hotels and restaurants.
- They must inform customers that service charges are voluntary and optional.
- Most importantly, hotels and restaurants are no longer allowed to limit admission or services based on the collection of service charges.
- Further, hotels are not allowed to add service charges to their bills and collect total GST.
- Any tip, token, donation etc. will be treated as a separate transaction between the hotel staff and the consumer which is completely voluntary for the consumer.

### ***Correction Process:***

- If any hotel or restaurant is charging service charges, the customer can ask the concerned hotel or restaurant to deduct the service charge from the bill or can lodge a complaint on NCH by calling the number 1915 or through the NCH mobile app.
- The National Consumer Helpline acts as an alternate dispute resolution mechanism at the pre-litigation stage.
- A complaint against unfair trade practice can be lodged with the Consumer Commission electronically through [edaakhil.nic.in](http://edaakhil.nic.in) for quick and effective redressal.

### ***Service tax:***

- It is a tip or direct transaction between the customer and the restaurant staff, especially the wait staff.
- It is the cost charged for services related to the purchase of a main product or service.
- It is collected by the hospitality and food and beverage industries as a fee for serving the consumers.

### ***Reason for issuing new guidelines:***

- A large number of complaints were registered on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH) regarding unnecessarily levying of service charges in payment bills.

- The bill was often charging additional amount as the total amount under the guise of some other charges.
- As per the new rules, charging a consumer more than the price of the food item on the menu and applicable taxes is considered ‘unfair trade practice’ under the CPA.

**Swadeep Kumar**

## **I2U2 Summit**



- Recently the first I2U2 (India, Israel, United States of America and United Arab Emirates) leaders’ summit was held in virtual form.

### ***I2U2***

- I2U2 is a group formed by India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. It is also known as ‘West Asian Quad’.
- I2U2 was formed in October 2021 after the Abrahamic Agreement to address issues related to maritime security, infrastructure and transport.
- The ‘Abraham Accord’ is the first peace agreement between Israel and the Arab countries in the last 26 years.

### ***Purpose:***

- Its stated objective is to discuss “strengthening economic partnership in trade and investment in and outside common areas of mutual interest”.
- Six areas of mutual cooperation have been identified by countries and aimed at promoting joint investments in water, energy, transport, space, health and food security.

### ***Highlights of the summit:***

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced an investment of USD 2 billion in India to develop food parks across the country.
- India will provide suitable land for this project and facilitate integration of farmers into food parks.
- The group announced the support of a “hybrid renewable energy project” in Gujarat, which includes 300 megawatts (MW) of wind and solar capacity.
- This project will prove to be another important step in India for 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.
- The US and Israel will be invited to provide their expertise in the private sectors and provide innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of projects under the group.

### ***Food Park:***

- Food Park is a concept that aims to establish direct linkage of consumer markets from farm to processing.
- This includes Collection Centers (CCs) and Primary Processing Centers (PPCs) attached to the Central Processing Centre.

### ***Importance of Food Park:***

#### ***Dealing with food insecurity:***

- Investment in food parks will help combat food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East, while maximizing crop yields.
- They aim to reduce “food loss and food spoilage”.
- India is the major food producer in the world.
- It has become imperative to focus on food and energy security in the backdrop of the current military situation in Ukraine, which has had a massive negative impact on the food, energy and other sectors.

### ***Increase in Income:***

- Farmers’ income will increase manifold and they will come on the table.
- Streamlining the agricultural supply chain:
- India was selected for the food project as it would help in building a smooth agricultural supply chain due to its proximity to Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

**Swadeep Kumar**

# The trend of World Politics toward Europe

## **The trend of World Politics toward Europe – Today Current Affairs**

Context: For several months the Russian Ukrainian war, once again influenced the entire world. The economy of the entire world is influenced by this war. Therefore, the political scientist once again has started to say the world is once again influenced and centralized towards Europe. This Euro center of world order would be more dangerous than the first second decades of the 20th century.

## **Today Current Affairs**

### **Introduction**

For several years world, politics was centralized in Europe after the second world war and the defeat of Germany. The two poles of the powers evolved. One pole of world politics was headed by the UAS and another by the USSR. But after the disintegration of the USSR, once again this world has become unipolar. For the last decades, the world has been converted into a multipolar world in which China, India, Russia, Japan, Israel, etc type countries have emerged as one of the biggest powers in economy and military. But once again after the Russia Ukrain war, once again the world is centralizing toward Euriope.

## **The reasons behind this changing world order : The Hindu Analysis**

There are several reasons which are responsible for this changing world order. After the Russian Ukrain war, the feeling of insecurity among the European countries increased. The small countries and pacific countries of Europe had lost their faith in America so therefore they are also increasing their investment in the defense sector gradually. Germany continuously increased its defense power itself.

If we suppose Donald Trump becomes the president in 2024 once again and he adopts several strict measures for her own security. n any case, there is little doubt that Europe, going forward, will emerge as a major locus of trans-Atlantic security imagination. The process has clearly begun. If wars



have the potential to shape international orders, it is Europe's turn to shape the world, once again. **The Hindu Analysis**

The Russian aggression once again had shown the power of Russia in front of the world and it alarmed other European countries to unite once again to protect their sovereignty because America would be more interested in her personal interest. therefore European countries would more focus on NATO. The European Union (EU) Commission in Brussels has backed Kyiv's bid for EU candidature, and the 30-state military alliance, NATO, has two more members in its fold (Finland and Sweden) all thanks to what the Europeans call "Putin's" war in Ukraine (they make a careful distinction between Russia and Vladimir Putin).

This Ukrain war also impacted some institutions. EU and NATO type of institutions that has been always depended on America now trying to be strengthened by their own. In this entire world, politics is moving towards Europe.

### **Today Current Affairs**

#### **Conclusion**

On the bases of the above discussion, the Russian Ukrain war would bring many changes in every field. It would change the world order also in the future and it may be predicted that the world is once again centralizing towards European politics. China and India, Israel type of the countries also indirectly supported one of the groups and all these countries are influenced by the Russian Ukrainian War. Therefore, to protect this world from other instability, this world would remain a multipolar world.

**Anshul**