



Yojna IAS

योजना है तो सफलता है

JUNE-JULY 2023

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

YOJNA IAS WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENTS

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

JUNE-JULY 2023

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION (NCDRC)

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "NCDRC". The topic "NCDRC" has relevance in the Governance section of the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance:

For Prelims:

What is NCDRC?

For Mains:

GS 2:Governance

Mandate of NCDRC?

Consumer Protection Act of 1986?

Consumer Protection Act of 2019?

Why in the news?

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has dismissed a complaint filed by the family of former Chief Justice Of India J S Verma claiming damages from doctors and medical institutions for the alleged negligence during his treatment.

What is NCDRC?

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) is a quasi-judicial body in India that handles consumer disputes at the national level. It was established under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986, which aims to protect the rights and interests of consumers in India.

Mandate of NCDRC?

- **Adjudication of Consumer Disputes:** The NCDRC has the authority to adjudicate consumer disputes at the national level. It hears and decides cases involving claims worth 1 crore rupees (10 million rupees) or more. The commission ensures fair and efficient resolution of consumer complaints and disputes.
- **Appellate Authority:** The NCDRC serves as an appellate authority for appeals against the decisions of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions. Consumers who are dissatisfied with the rulings of lower consumer courts can approach the NCDRC for further redressal.
- **Remedies and Relief:** The commission has the power to provide remedies and relief to consumers who have suffered due to unfair practices, deficiency in services, or defective products. It can order compensation, refund of money, replacement of goods, or other appropriate relief as deemed necessary in each case.
- **Consumer Protection Jurisprudence:** The NCDRC plays a crucial role in shaping consumer protection jurisprudence in India. Its decisions and judgments set precedents and provide guidance to lower consumer courts. The commission's rulings contribute to the development of legal principles and interpretation of consumer rights.
- **Consumer Awareness and Education:** In addition to its adjudicatory functions, the NCDRC also promotes consumer awareness and education. It endeavors to educate consumers about their rights, responsibilities, and available legal remedies. The commission may undertake initiatives to raise awareness about consumer protection laws and ensure that consumers are empowered to make informed choices.
- **Enforcement of Consumer Protection Laws:** The NCDRC is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. It ensures that businesses and service providers comply with consumer protection laws and regulations. The commission may impose penalties on errant businesses found to be in violation of consumer rights.

Consumer Protection Act of 1986:

The Consumer Protection Act (CPA) of 1986 is a legislation enacted in India with the objective of safeguarding consumer rights and promoting consumer welfare. It aimed to provide a legal framework for the protection of consumer interests and the resolution of consumer disputes. Here are some key features and provisions of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986:

- **Definition of Consumer:** The act defines a consumer as any person who buys goods or avails services for personal use, including those who use goods or services with the consent of the buyer.
- **Consumer Rights:** The CPA of 1986 recognizes several fundamental rights of consumers, including the right to be protected against unfair trade practices, the right to information about the quality, quantity, and price of goods or services, the right to choose, and the right to seek redressal.
- **Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions:** The act establishes a three-tiered consumer dispute redressal mechanism, comprising the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (at

the district level), the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (at the state level), and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (at the national level). Consumers can file complaints with these commissions based on the value of the goods or services involved.

- **Jurisdiction and Remedies:** The CPA of 1986 grants the consumer commissions the authority to hear and decide consumer complaints, provide appropriate remedies, and award compensation to aggrieved consumers. The commissions have the power to summon witnesses, receive evidence, and pass orders to protect consumer rights.
- **Unfair Trade Practices:** The act prohibits unfair trade practices, such as making false or misleading representations, misleading advertisements, and offering goods or services that are hazardous to life and safety.
- **Consumer Protection Councils:** The CPA of 1986 establishes Consumer Protection Councils at the district, state, and national levels to promote consumer rights, create awareness, and facilitate consumer education.

Consumer Protection Act of 2019:

The Consumer Protection Act (CPA) of 2019 is a comprehensive legislation enacted in India to strengthen consumer protection, address emerging challenges in the marketplace, and promote fair and transparent practices. Here are some key features and provisions of the Consumer Protection Act of 2019:

- **Definition of Consumer:** The act expands the definition of a consumer to include individuals who purchase goods or services online, through tele-shopping, direct selling, and more. It recognizes consumers engaging in e-commerce transactions and those who buy products or services through electronic means.
- **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):** The CPA of 2019 establishes the CCPA as a regulatory body with powers to protect, promote, and enforce consumer rights. The CCPA has the authority to investigate violations, order recalls, initiate class-action suits, and take action against unfair trade practices, false advertising, and misleading claims.
- **Consumer Rights:** The act enshrines certain rights for consumers, including the right to be protected against marketing of goods and services that are hazardous, the right to information, the right to seek redressal, the right to consumer education, and the right to a healthy and sustainable environment.
- **Product Liability:** The CPA of 2019 introduces the concept of product liability, holding manufacturers, product sellers, and service providers accountable for any harm caused by defective products or deficient services. It provides consumers with the right to seek compensation for injury or damage caused by such products or services.
- **Mediation and Simplified Dispute Resolution:** The act emphasizes the importance of mediation and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to expedite the resolution of consumer disputes. It encourages settlement through mediation before approaching consumer courts and establishes mediation cells to facilitate the resolution process.
- **Consumer Dispute Redressal Commissions:** The CPA of 2019 retains the existing structure of consumer dispute redressal commissions at the district, state, and national levels. It introduces provisions for e-filing of complaints, videoconferencing for hearings, and stricter timelines for

disposal of cases.

- **Enhanced Penalties:** The act increases the penalties for various offenses, such as manufacturing or selling adulterated or spurious goods, engaging in unfair trade practices, and providing false information. It provides for stricter penalties and imprisonment for repeat offenses.
- **Consumer Protection Councils:** The CPA of 2019 strengthens the role of Consumer Protection Councils at the district, state, and national levels in promoting consumer rights and creating awareness. These councils work towards consumer education, research, and advocacy.
- **E-Commerce and Consumer Protection:** The act specifically addresses e-commerce transactions and introduces provisions to safeguard consumer interests in online transactions. It covers issues like misleading advertisements, unfair contract terms, protection of personal data, and liability of e-commerce platforms.
- **Product Recall:** The CPA of 2019 empowers the government to order the recall of unsafe goods from the market if they pose a risk to consumer health or safety.

Source:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ncdrc-dismisses-claim-medical-negligence-as-cause-of-death-of-former-cji-101686748864097.html>

Q.1 Which of the following statements regarding the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) is correct?

1. The NCDRC is a constitutional body established under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
2. The NCDRC has jurisdiction over consumer disputes involving claims worth less than 1 crore rupees.

Select the correct option:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (d)

Q.2 Which of the following is a key feature introduced by the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) of 2019 in India?

- (a) Establishment of Consumer Protection Councils
- (b) Definition of a consumer limited to physical purchases only

- (c) Provision for e-filing of complaints
- (d) Three-tiered consumer dispute redressal mechanism

Answer: (c)

Q.3 The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) plays a vital role in protecting consumer rights and resolving consumer disputes in India. Discuss the significance of NCDRC in the consumer protection framework and its contributions to the development of consumer jurisprudence.

INDIA-EGYPT

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “India-Egypt”. The topic “India-Egypt” has relevance in the International Relations section of the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance:

For Prelims:

Location of Egypt?

Facts about India Egypt Relations?

For Mains:

GS 2: International Relations?

Significance of Egypt For India?

Challenges for india?

Why in the news?

Egypt's President El-Sisi who was India's Republic Day chief guest this year, conferred Egypt's highest State Honour, "The Order of The Nile", on Mr. Modi; it is given to world leaders and those "who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services"

Location of Egypt?

Egypt is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, Sudan to the south, Libya to the west, and Israel and the Gaza Strip to the northeast. It also shares maritime borders with Cyprus and Saudi Arabia.

The Sinai Peninsula, located in the northeastern part of Egypt, connects the African mainland with the Asian continent. It is bordered by the Gulf of Suez to the west and the Gulf of Aqaba to the east. The

Suez Canal, a vital waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, also runs through Egypt.

Facts about India Egypt Relations?

- **Upgrade to Strategic Partnership:** India and Egypt have decided to upgrade their ties to a Strategic Partnership, a significant move that strengthens their relationship in the West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region.
- **Historical Ties:** India and Egypt have a long history of ties, including signing a Friendship Treaty in 1955 and being founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the G-77 grouping.
- **Non-Alignment:** During the Cold War, both countries shared a common stance of not aligning with either the U.S. or the Soviet Union, promoting an independent foreign policy.
- **Similar Positions on Ukraine Crisis:** India and Egypt have taken similar positions on the Ukraine war, not condemning Russia's actions but calling for a diplomatic resolution.
- **Wheat Supply and Goodwill:** India's decision to supply wheat to Egypt when it faced import disruptions due to the blockade on exports from Russia and Ukraine earned India goodwill in Cairo.
- **Cooperation in Various Sectors:** India and Egypt are pursuing closer cooperation in green energy, pharmaceuticals, defence, agriculture, archaeology, antiquities, and competition law.
- **Engagement with the Muslim World:** Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Al-Hakim Mosque and meeting with Egypt's Grand Mufti aimed to dispel misgivings about India's policies towards the Muslim world.

Significance of Egypt For India?

- **Trade and Economic Cooperation:** India and Egypt have substantial bilateral trade, which contributes to their economic growth. Enhanced economic cooperation benefits both countries by promoting investments, expanding market access, and facilitating technology transfers.
- **Energy Security:** Egypt is a significant player in the energy sector, particularly in natural gas production. India, being one of the world's largest energy consumers, seeks to ensure a stable and diversified energy supply. Cooperation with Egypt helps India in meeting its energy needs.
- **Counterterrorism and Security:** Both India and Egypt face challenges related to terrorism and extremism. Cooperation in intelligence sharing, capacity building, and joint operations strengthens their collective efforts in combating terrorism and maintaining regional security.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges:** Cultural ties between India and Egypt promote mutual understanding, fostering cultural exchanges, tourism, and educational collaborations. People-to-people contacts contribute to building stronger bonds and enhancing the overall bilateral relationship.
- **Strategic Importance:** Egypt's geographical location at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East, and Europe gives it strategic significance. Strengthening ties with Egypt enables India to enhance its engagement in the broader region, including the Arab world and Africa.

- **International Diplomacy:** India and Egypt often share common positions on global issues and have collaborated in multilateral forums like the United Nations. Closer ties with Egypt provide India with a valuable partner in advancing shared interests and priorities on the international stage.

Challenges for india?

- **Geographical Distance:** The geographical distance between India and Egypt poses a logistical challenge for regular and effective coordination.
- **Language Barrier:** Language differences, with Arabic being the primary language in Egypt and Hindi/English in India, can pose communication challenges and hinder seamless interactions.
- **Trade Imbalance:** There is a trade imbalance between India and Egypt, with India's imports from Egypt outweighing its exports. Addressing this trade gap and diversifying the trade basket are ongoing challenges.
- **Political Instability:** Egypt has experienced political instability in recent years, including periods of unrest and regime changes. This instability can impact the consistency and continuity of bilateral engagements.
- **Regional Dynamics:** The complex and evolving regional dynamics in the Middle East, including conflicts and geopolitical rivalries, can influence India-Egypt relations and present challenges for cooperation on regional issues.
- **Connectivity:** Limited air connectivity and direct flight options between India and Egypt can pose challenges for enhanced people-to-people contacts and increased tourism.
- **Cultural Differences:** While cultural exchanges are vital for bilateral relations, differing cultural practices and perceptions can sometimes create challenges in understanding and fostering stronger cultural ties.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-grand-revival-on-india-egypt-ties/article67012330.ece>

Q.1 Which of the following statements accurately describes the location of Egypt?

1. Egypt is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the east.
2. Egypt shares its borders with Libya to the west and Sudan to the south.
3. The Sinai Peninsula, a part of Egyptian territory, lies to the northeast of the country.

Select the correct option(s):

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2, and 3

(d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Q.2 Consider the following statement:

1. India and Egypt upgraded their ties to a Strategic Partnership, strengthening their relationship in the WANA region.
2. India and Egypt have a long history of ties, including signing a Friendship Treaty in 1955 and being founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the G-77 grouping.
3. India and Egypt have taken a similar position on the Ukraine crisis, calling for a diplomatic resolution without condemning Russia's actions.

Select the correct option(s):

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: (a)

Q.3 Explain the significance of the India-Egypt relationship, highlighting the key aspects of co-operation and its impact on regional dynamics.

CHENNAI-VLADIVOSTOK MARITIME ROUTE

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route". The topic "Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route" has relevance in the International Relations section of the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance:

For Prelims:

Facts about Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route?

For Mains:

GS 2 and 3: International Relations and Infrastructure.

Significance of Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route?

Challenges for India?

Way forward?

Why in the news?

India and Russia are keen to make the Chennai – Vladivostok maritime route operational, and a stakeholder meeting to work out details have been scheduled in September, says Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal

Facts about Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route?

The Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route is a proposed shipping route connecting the Indian port of Chennai (formerly known as Madras) with the Russian port of Vladivostok. Here are some key facts about the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route:

- **Geographical Significance:** The Chennai-Vladivostok route aims to establish a direct maritime link between the eastern coast of India and the Far East region of Russia. This route passes through the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, the Strait of Malacca, and the South China Sea, offering a shorter and more efficient trade route between the two countries.
- The aim is to access natural resources from Northeast Asia and the Western Pacific region.
- The Chennai-Vladivostok sea route will reduce transportation time from over 40 days to 24 days for cargo between India and Far East Russia.
- The route can serve as a corridor to counter China's Maritime Silk Route and its presence in Southeast Asia.
- Russia is concerned about increasing the Chinese population in its Far-eastern region, which could alter demographics.
- The initiative aims to strengthen economic ties, enhance regional connectivity, and address geopolitical concerns.

Significance of Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route?

- **Strengthening Economic Ties:** The maritime route can enhance bilateral trade between India and Russia by providing a direct and more efficient transportation corridor. It would reduce transit times, costs, and logistical complexities, thereby boosting the volume of trade and fostering economic cooperation between the two countries.
- **Diversifying Trade Routes:** Currently, India relies heavily on the traditional land and sea routes for trade with Russia, which pass through Europe and the Middle East. The Chennai-Vladivostok route would offer an alternative and shorter route, diversifying India's trade routes and reducing dependence on congested and politically volatile regions.

- **Access to the Far East Region:** The maritime route would provide India direct access to the resource-rich Far East region of Russia. This region offers opportunities for collaboration in sectors such as energy, mining, fisheries, and infrastructure development. Access to these resources can contribute to India's energy security and support its economic growth.
- **Strengthening Geopolitical Influence:** The establishment of the Chennai-Vladivostok route aligns with India's broader Indo-Pacific strategy. It enhances India's presence and influence in the region, particularly in the context of geopolitical developments and China's increasing influence. It enables India to deepen its engagement with Russia, a key player in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Connectivity Initiatives:** The Chennai-Vladivostok route is part of India's efforts to enhance connectivity with Eurasian countries and strengthen the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). The route can connect with other multimodal transportation networks, such as roads, railways, and inland waterways, facilitating greater regional integration and trade flows.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges:** Improved connectivity through the maritime route can foster cultural and people-to-people exchanges between India and Russia. It can facilitate tourism, educational collaborations, and cultural exchanges, strengthening the bilateral relationship at the societal level.
- **Regional Stability and Security:** Enhanced economic ties and collaboration between India and Russia through the maritime route can contribute to regional stability and security. Increased trade and economic cooperation often serve as a stabilizing factor in international relations, promoting peaceful coexistence and reducing conflicts.

Challenges for India?

- **Infrastructure Development:** The successful operation of the maritime route requires the development of robust infrastructure, including ports, terminals, and transportation networks. India would need to invest in expanding and upgrading its existing port facilities to handle the increased trade volume and accommodate larger vessels. This entails significant financial investment and coordination among various stakeholders.
- **Logistical Challenges:** The route passes through multiple international waters and straits, including the Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, the Strait of Malacca, and the South China Sea. Navigating these waters can pose logistical challenges, including piracy, maritime security concerns, congestion, and adverse weather conditions.
- **Connectivity with Hinterland:** Establishing a seamless connectivity network from the ports to the hinterland is crucial for the success of the maritime route. Efficient road and rail networks need to be developed to ensure smooth transportation of goods to and from the ports.
- **Regulatory and Customs Procedures:** Streamlining regulatory and customs procedures is essential to facilitate smooth trade operations along the Chennai-Vladivostok route. Harmonizing customs regulations, reducing paperwork, and implementing efficient clearance processes would help minimize delays and improve the ease of doing business.
- **Market Access and Trade Barriers:** India would need to address trade barriers, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers to ensure favorable market access for its goods in Russia and other countries.

along the route. Negotiating trade agreements and resolving trade disputes would be crucial to promote trade and remove impediments to the flow of goods.

- **Competition from Existing Routes:** The Chennai-Vladivostok route would face competition from established trade routes connecting India and Russia through Europe and the Middle East. Convincing stakeholders to shift their existing trade patterns to the new route would require demonstrating its advantages in terms of cost, time, and reliability.
- **Political and Geostrategic Considerations:** The successful operation of the maritime route may be influenced by geopolitical dynamics and political considerations. It would require maintaining cordial relations with neighboring countries and managing potential sensitivities related to territorial disputes or competing strategic interests.

Way forward?

- **Infrastructure Development:** The Indian government should prioritize infrastructure development, including the expansion and modernization of ports along the route. Investments should be made to enhance port capacities, improve connectivity with hinterland regions, and develop efficient multimodal transportation networks.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Close collaboration among various stakeholders is crucial. The government should engage with port authorities, private sector players, logistics providers, and international partners to foster cooperation and address the specific needs and challenges of the maritime route.
- **Streamlining Regulatory Procedures:** Efforts should be made to simplify customs procedures, reduce paperwork, and harmonize regulations. This can be achieved through the digitization of trade documentation, implementing single-window clearance mechanisms, and promoting mutual recognition agreements to streamline customs processes.
- **Enhancing Maritime Security:** Collaboration with regional navies and maritime security agencies is essential to address piracy, ensure safe passage, and enhance security along the maritime route. Sharing intelligence, conducting joint patrols, and investing in surveillance systems can help mitigate security risks and instill confidence among traders and shipping companies.
- **Trade Facilitation and Market Access:** The Indian government should actively engage in trade negotiations and dialogues to address trade barriers and promote favorable market access for Indian goods in Russia and other countries along the route. Bilateral and regional trade agreements can be explored to simplify customs procedures and reduce trade barriers.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Diplomatic efforts should be focused on building strong relationships with countries along the route. Regular dialogues, high-level visits, and strategic partnerships can create a conducive environment for trade and cooperation, while addressing any political or geopolitical sensitivities that may arise.
- **Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establishing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism is crucial to assess the progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments. Regular reviews can help track the performance of the maritime route, address emerging issues, and ensure that the route operates efficiently and effectively.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/india-and-russia-aim-to-establish-chennai-vladivostok-maritime-route-promising-time-and-cost-savings/article67011647.ece>

Q.1 Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route?

1. The maritime route is intended to enhance trade connectivity between India and Far East Russia.
2. The initiative to establish the maritime route is part of India's Indo-Pacific strategy to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.
3. The Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route primarily focuses on strengthening cultural and people-to-people exchanges between India and Russia.

Select the correct option using the codes below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3

Answer: (a)

Q.2 Which of the following statements regarding the new trade route(Chennai-Vladivostok) between India and Russia is/are correct?

1. The route is expected to significantly reduce the transportation time between India and Russia.
2. It is a land-based corridor primarily focusing on road and rail connectivity.
3. The trade route is a part of India's strategic initiatives in the Arctic region.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3

Answer: (a)

Q.3 Analyze the significance and potential challenges of the Chennai-Vladivostok maritime route for India's regional connectivity and geopolitical interests.

INDIAN OCEAN DIPOLE (IOD)

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)". The topic "Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)" has relevance in the Geography section of the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance:

For Prelims:

What is IOD?

For Mains:

GS 1: Geography

Impact of IOD on Indian Monsoon?

IOD and ENSO relation?

Why in the news?

With the El Nino phenomenon almost certain to affect the Indian monsoon this year, high hopes are pinned on the development of a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and its ability to counterbalance the El Nino effect.

What is IOD?

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) refers to a climate phenomenon that occurs in the Indian Ocean, specifically in the equatorial region. It is characterized by the difference in sea surface temperatures (SST) between the western and eastern parts of the Indian Ocean.

The IOD is similar in nature to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, but it occurs in the Indian Ocean. It is driven by changes in wind patterns and ocean currents, leading to variations in SST and atmospheric pressure.

Impact of IOD on Indian Monsoon?

• Positive IOD and Indian Monsoon:

During a positive IOD phase, the western Indian Ocean experiences cooler sea surface temperatures (SST) compared to the eastern Indian Ocean. This leads to the following effects on the Indian monsoon:

1. **Above-average rainfall:** Positive IOD events are associated with increased monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent. The cooler SSTs in the western Indian Ocean enhance convection and moisture transport, leading to higher rainfall amounts.
2. **Enhanced agricultural productivity:** The surplus rainfall brought by the positive IOD can contribute to favorable conditions for agriculture, promoting crop growth and higher agricultural yields.
3. **Potential for floods:** In extreme cases, excessive rainfall associated with a positive IOD can result in flooding in certain regions, causing disruptions and damage to infrastructure and livelihoods.

- **Negative IOD and Indian Monsoon:**

During a negative IOD phase, warmer SSTs prevail in the western Indian Ocean, while cooler SSTs are observed in the eastern Indian Ocean. This has the following effects on the Indian monsoon:

1. **Below-average rainfall:** Negative IOD events are generally associated with reduced monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent. The warmer SSTs in the western Indian Ocean cause sinking air, inhibiting the uplift of moist air and resulting in suppressed rainfall over the region.
2. **Drier conditions:** The deficiency in rainfall caused by the negative IOD can lead to drier conditions, affecting agricultural activities and water availability in affected regions.
3. **Shift in rainfall patterns:** Negative IOD events can cause a shift in the spatial distribution of rainfall, with some regions experiencing more significant deficits than others.

IOD and ENSO relation?

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) are two distinct climate phenomena, but they can interact and influence each other. The relationship between the IOD and ENSO is complex and can have important implications for regional and global climate patterns. Here are some key aspects of their relationship:

- **Influence on Each Other:** ENSO events in the Pacific Ocean can influence the IOD, and vice versa. During El Niño events, the warmer waters in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean can alter atmospheric circulation patterns and affect the development of the IOD in the Indian Ocean. Similarly, positive IOD events can enhance the development of El Niño events or hinder the development of La Niña events in the Pacific.
- **Combined Impact on Regional Rainfall:** The simultaneous occurrence of a positive IOD and El Niño can have a compounding effect on regional rainfall patterns. This combination often leads to below-average rainfall over the Indian subcontinent and other affected regions. Conversely, the simultaneous occurrence of a negative IOD and La Niña can result in enhanced monsoon rainfall and above-average precipitation.
- **Modulation of Monsoon Variability:** IOD and ENSO can modulate the variability of the Indian monsoon. During El Niño years, the influence of ENSO tends to dominate, and the impact of IOD on the monsoon is relatively weaker. In contrast, during La Niña years, the IOD can play a more significant role in shaping the monsoon rainfall patterns.
- **Mutual Weakening or Reinforcement:** In some cases, the IOD and ENSO can weaken or reinforce each other's effects. For instance, a positive IOD event can weaken the impact of a developing El

Niño event, resulting in reduced chances of an intense El Niño. Conversely, a negative IOD can reinforce the effects of La Niña, leading to a more pronounced cooling of the Pacific Ocean and stronger monsoon conditions.

- **Variability and Nonlinear Relationship:** The relationship between the IOD and ENSO is not consistently linear or predictable. The strength, timing, and spatial patterns of the IOD and ENSO events can vary, resulting in different outcomes for regional climate patterns. The interaction between the two phenomena is influenced by numerous factors, including ocean-atmosphere feedback processes, teleconnections, and internal climate variability.

Understanding the relationship between the IOD and ENSO is essential for improving climate forecasting, particularly for regions impacted by these phenomena, such as the Indian subcontinent and parts of Southeast Asia. Monitoring and studying the IOD and ENSO concurrently help enhance the accuracy of climate predictions and provide valuable insights into the drivers of climate variability on a global scale.

Source:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-climate/indian-ocean-dipole-what-is-it-how-it-can-limit-el-nino-effects-8689360/>

Q.1 Which of the following statements best describes the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)?

- (A) It is a climate phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean that affects the Indian monsoon.
- (B) It refers to the variations in sea surface temperatures (SST) in the Indian Ocean that impact the Indian monsoon.
- (C) It is a type of ocean current found in the Indian Ocean that influences global climate patterns.
- (D) It is a weather system characterized by cyclonic storms in the Indian Ocean region.

Answer: (B)

Q.2 Which of the following describes the positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)?

- (A) Warmer sea surface temperatures in the eastern Indian Ocean compared to the western Indian Ocean.
- (B) Cooler sea surface temperatures in the eastern Indian Ocean compared to the western Indian Ocean.
- (C) Above-average monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent.
- (D) Below-average monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent.

Answer: (A)

Q.3 Discuss the impact of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) on regional climate patterns and its significance for the Indian subcontinent.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT IN INDIA

This article covers “Daily Current Affairs” and the topic details “Organ Transplant in India”. The topic “Organ Transplant in India” has relevance in the Public Health section of the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance:

For Prelims:

What is Organ Transplant?

For Mains:

GS 2: Public Health

Issues related to Organ Transplant in India?

Measures to be taken to deal with issues?

About NOTTO?

Why in the News?

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has issued a warning after it found private websites and social media posts promoting and offering organs for trade.

What is Organ Transplant?

Organ transplantation is a medical procedure in which a healthy organ or tissue is surgically removed from a donor and placed into a recipient whose organ have failed or are no longer functioning properly. The donated organ can come from a living donor or a deceased donor.

The most common types of organ transplants include kidney, liver, heart, lung, and pancreas transplants. Additionally, tissues such as corneas, skin, bone, and heart valves can also be transplanted.

- The Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, governs organ transplantation in India.
- Recent changes include removing domicile criteria for recipients and allowing registration for patients aged 65 and older.
- India has seen a significant increase in organ transplants over the past decade. However, the organ donation rate in India remains very low, with only about 0.01 percent of Indians donating their

organs after death.

- The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is responsible for organ procurement, distribution, and maintaining a national registry in India.

Issues related to Organ Transplant in India?

- **Low Organ Donation Rate:** Despite performing a significant number of transplants, India has a low organ donation rate. Only around 0.01 percent of Indians donate their organs after death, according to the World Health Organization. This shortage of organs hampers the availability of life-saving transplants for patients in need.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Limited awareness about organ donation and transplantation contributes to the low organ donation rate. Many people are not familiar with the process, benefits, and the impact their donation can make on someone's life.
- **Organ Trafficking:** Organ trafficking, which involves illegal trade and transplantation of organs, is a global issue, the presence of illegal networks and the demand for organs create challenges in eradicating this unethical practice.
- **Organ Transplant Infrastructure:** Lack of adequate infrastructure, including transplant centers, trained medical professionals, and facilities for organ preservation and transportation, Ethical Considerations: Organ transplantation raises ethical questions regarding organ allocation, fairness, and equity in access to transplantation.

Measures to be taken to deal with issues?

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct widespread awareness campaigns to educate the public about organ donation, transplantation, and the importance of ethical practices. These campaigns can be carried out through various mediums, including mass media, social media, educational institutions, and community outreach programs.
- **Strengthening Legal Framework:** Continuously review and strengthen the legal framework governing organ transplantation to address emerging challenges and ensure strict enforcement. This includes effective monitoring and crackdown on illegal organ trading activities and imposing severe penalties on offenders.
- **Improved Organ Procurement Systems:** Establish efficient organ procurement systems to facilitate the timely retrieval and allocation of organs. This can involve setting up organ retrieval centers, enhancing coordination between hospitals and transplant centers, and implementing protocols for the identification and evaluation of potential donors.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Foster partnerships between the government, healthcare institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities to enhance organ donation and transplantation efforts. Collaboration can help streamline processes, share resources, and leverage expertise to improve organ procurement, transplantation services, and public outreach.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Invest in training programs and capacity building initiatives for healthcare professionals involved in organ transplantation. This includes training transplant surgeons, nurses, coordinators, and other healthcare providers to ensure standardized practices,

maintain quality standards, and enhance the overall transplantation process.

- **Ethical Guidelines and Oversight:** Develop comprehensive ethical guidelines for organ allocation and transplant procedures, ensuring fairness, transparency, and equitable distribution. Establish oversight committees or regulatory bodies to monitor adherence to ethical guidelines and address any potential ethical concerns that may arise.
- **International Collaboration:** Foster collaboration and information-sharing with international organizations and countries with successful organ transplantation programs. Learning from best practices, sharing knowledge, and collaborating on research and technological advancements can further enhance organ transplantation practices in India.
- **Donor Registry and Exchange Networks:** Develop a robust national donor registry and explore the establishment of exchange networks to optimize organ allocation. These networks can facilitate organ sharing among different regions, prioritize patients based on medical urgency, and reduce waiting times for organ transplantation.
- **Research and Innovation:** Encourage research and innovation in the field of organ transplantation, including advancements in organ preservation techniques, immunosuppressive therapies, and organ engineering. Promote collaborations between scientists, clinicians, and industry stakeholders to drive advancements and improve outcomes in the field.
- **Support for Organ Donors and Recipients:** Provide adequate support, counseling, and healthcare services to organ donors and recipients throughout the transplantation process. This includes post-transplant care, lifelong follow-up, and mental health support to ensure the well-being of both donors and recipients.

About NOTTO?

- The NOTTO is a national-level organization housed in the Institute of Pathology (ICMR).
- Its mandate is to establish a network for organ procurement and distribution and maintain a national registry for surveillance of organ donation and transplantation in India.
- NOTTO operates under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/organ-transplant-body-writes-to-states-calls-for-strict-action-to-prevent-trafficking/article67019490.ece>

Q.1 Which organization is responsible for maintaining a national registry for organ donation and transplantation in India?

- (a) NOTTO
- (b) WHO

- (c) ICMR
- (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer: (a)

Q.2 What is the primary legislation governing organ transplantation in India?

- (a) Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994
- (b) Organ Transplantation Regulatory Act, 2001
- (c) National Organ Transplantation Policy, 2010
- (d) Human Organ Donation and Transplantation Act, 2015

Answer: (a)

Q.3 Discuss the challenges and potential solutions for improving the organ transplantation system in India. What steps can the government take to promote ethical practices and curb illegal organ trading?

GREEN HYDROGEN

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "Green Hydrogen". The topic "Green Hydrogen" has relevance in the Science and Technology section of the UPSC CSE exam.

Relevance:

For Prelims:

What is Green hydrogen?

National Mission for Green Hydrogen?

For Mains:

GS 3: Science and Technology

Significance of Green hydrogen?

Challenges in adopting Green hydrogen?

Why in the news?

The government has planned over Rs 17,000 crore in incentives to promote the manufacturing of electrolyzers and green hydrogen in the country, said MNRE Secretary Bhupinder Singh Bhalla.

What is Green hydrogen?

- **Definition:** Green hydrogen refers to hydrogen gas produced through electrolysis, using renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, or hydroelectric power.
- **Renewable Energy:** The production of green hydrogen requires electricity generated from renewable sources, ensuring minimal or no greenhouse gas emissions during the process.
- **Electrolysis Process:** Water molecules (H₂O) are split into hydrogen (H₂) and oxygen (O₂) through electrolysis, which involves passing an electric current through the water.
- **Applications:** Green hydrogen can be used as a fuel in fuel cells for electric vehicles, as well as in industrial processes where it acts as a clean alternative to fossil fuels.
- **Energy Storage:** Green hydrogen can store excess renewable energy and provide a means to balance the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources.
- **Cost Considerations:** Currently, green hydrogen production is more expensive compared to conventional methods that rely on fossil fuels. However, as renewable energy costs decrease and economies of scale are achieved, the cost of green hydrogen is expected to become more competitive.

National Mission for Green Hydrogen?

The National Green Hydrogen Mission is an initiative launched in 2022 by the Government of India as part of its decarbonization strategy. The mission aims to promote the production and use of green hydrogen in the country and leverage it as a key driver for sustainable development.

- **Strategic Hydrogen Innovation Partnership (SHIP):** Promotes Public-Private Partnership framework for Research & Development.
- **Production Target:** Aim to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- **Goal:** Make India a leading producer and supplier of Green Hydrogen in the world.

Significance of Green hydrogen?

- **Decarbonization:** Green hydrogen plays a crucial role in decarbonizing various sectors, including transportation and industry by replacing fossil fuels.
- **Energy Transition:** Green hydrogen offers a means to integrate and store renewable energy. It can help overcome the intermittent nature of wind and solar power by converting excess energy into hydrogen.
- **Energy Storage:** Green hydrogen serves as a versatile energy storage medium. It can store energy for long periods and be converted back into electricity when demand is high.
- **Energy Independence:** By producing hydrogen from renewable sources domestically, countries can reduce their reliance on imported fossil fuels.

- **Economic Opportunities:** Investments in green hydrogen technologies can drive innovation, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth in sectors such as renewable energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure development.

Challenges in adopting Green hydrogen?

- **Cost:** Currently, the production of green hydrogen is more expensive compared to conventional hydrogen production methods reliant on fossil fuels.
- **Infrastructure:** The infrastructure for green hydrogen production, storage, and distribution is not yet well-developed.
- **Scalability:** Scaling up green hydrogen production requires a substantial increase in renewable energy capacity and the deployment of large-scale electrolysis systems.
- **Efficiency:** The efficiency of electrolysis processes needs improvement. Currently, the conversion of electrical energy into hydrogen is relatively low, resulting in energy losses.

Source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/govt-plans-rs-17000-cr-incentive-scheme-for-electrolyzers-green-hydrogen-production-mnre-secy-bhupinder-bhalla/article-show/101340541.cms?from=mdr>

Q.1 Which of the following statements regarding the National Green Hydrogen Mission in India is/are correct?

1. The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched in 2022 as part of India's decarbonization strategy.
2. The mission aims to make India a leading producer and supplier of green hydrogen in the world.
3. It targets a production goal of 10 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2025.

Select the correct option(s):

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2, and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: (a)

Q.2 Which of the following statements about green hydrogen is/are correct?

1. Green hydrogen can be used as a clean alternative to fossil fuels in industrial processes.
2. The production of green hydrogen involves the splitting of water molecules using nuclear fission.

Select the correct option(s):

- (a) Both 1 and 2
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Q.3 Discuss the potential of green hydrogen in driving India's energy transition and achieving its climate goals. Analyze the challenges and opportunities associated with the widespread adoption of green hydrogen in the country.