AN ARAM IAS ACADEMY’S INNOVATIVE INITIATIVE FOR PRELIMS-2022

A BOUQUET OF TOPICS FROM SEVEN SUBJECTS

100 DAYS AND 700 TOPICS

THE CONFLUENCE

DAY - 11

THURSDAY - 03.03.2022

CALL US: +91 893-969-6868 / 69

FOR MORE UPDATES JOIN OUR TELEGRAM GROUP BY SCANNING QR CODE
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.NO</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>PAGE NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>POLITY</td>
<td>SUSPENSION OF MPs AND MLAs</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>HISTORY</td>
<td>PREHISTORIC PAINTINGS</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>GEOGRAPHY</td>
<td>GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ECONOMY</td>
<td>CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF HAVING A BAD BANK</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>HIGH AMBITION COALITION (HAC) FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>LASSA FEVER</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>CURRENT AFFAIRS</td>
<td>AMBERGRIS</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POLITY

SUSPENSION OF MPs AND MLAs

Why in News?

1. 12 Opposition MPs was suspended during the Winter Session for disruptions in Rajya Sabha during the Monsoon Session. This is the first time members of Rajya Sabha have been suspended for misconduct during the previous session. Opposition parties described the move as “authoritarian”, “un warranted” and “undemocratic”.

2. Twelve BJP MLAs were suspended from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for one year after the state government accused them of “misbehaving” with presiding officer. Thereafter, Supreme Court set aside the suspension of the 12 Maharashtra BJP MLAs from the Assembly for one year, saying the decision was arbitrary, unconstitutional and illegal.

What is the reason for suspending an MP?

The general principle is that it is the role and duty of the Presiding Officer — Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha — to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly. In order to ensure that proceedings are conducted in the proper manner, the Speaker/Chairman is empowered to force a Member to withdraw (suspension too) from the House.

The suspension in case of Rajyasabha MPs was said to be for “the unprecedented acts of misconduct”, “unruly and violent behavior” and “intentional attacks on security personnel”

Procedure for suspension/withdrawal of MPs in Loksabha and Rajyasabha

Rules in Loksabha:

There are three main rules mentioned in the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business. They are

Rule 373: It says the Speaker, if is of the opinion that the conduct of any Member is grossly disorderly, may direct such Member to withdraw immediately from the House. Any Member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall remain absent during the remainder of the day’s sitting. To deal with more recalcitrant Members, the Speaker make take recourse to Rules 374 and 374A.
Rule 374: It says the Speaker may bring motion for the Member to be suspended from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session, if the member dis regards the authority of the Chair or abuses the rules of the House by persistently and willfully obstructing the business.

However, new Rule 374A was incorporated in the Rule Book on December 5, 2001. The intention was to avoid the necessity of moving and adopting a motion for suspension.

Rule 374A: If the member brings the grave disorder by coming into the well of the House or abusing the Rules of the House persistently and willfully obstructing its business by shouting slogans or otherwise and the speaker names the Member, he/she stand automatically suspended from the service of the House for five consecutive sittings or the remainder of the session, whichever is less.

Procedure in the Rajya Sabha for suspension:

Rule 255 and 256 of Rajya Sabha's rules of procedure: Like the Speaker in Lok Sabha, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under this rule to direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the House.

However, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member directly unlike the Speaker. The house has to adopt a motion after the chairman names the member for his/her unruly behavior.

Timeframe: Suspension can be for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session. This would mean that if the member is suspended on the last day of the session, the period of suspension will be only a day.

Note: Similar rules and procedures are followed in the state legislative assemblies.

Why suspension of MLA is declared unconstitutional in Maharashtra?

The Supreme Court said that the one-year suspension was prima facie unconstitutional as it went beyond the six-month limit, and amounted to "not punishing the member but punishing the constituency as a whole".

Constitutional Requirement: The bench cited Article 190 (4) of the Constitution, which says, "If for a period of sixty days a member of a House of the Legislature of a State is without permission of the House absent from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant."

Statutory Requirement: Under Section 151 (A) of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, “a bye-election for filling any vacancy shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy".
Arguments by the Maharashtra government in the SC:

Maharashtra government cited the Article 212 (1) which states that “The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure”. Thus, it is not under the purview of judiciary.

It also quoted the Article 194 on the powers and privileges of the House, and argued that any member who transgresses these privileges can be suspended through the inherent powers of the House.
HISTORY

PREHISTORIC PAINTINGS

Why in News?

Stone Age tools, cave paintings discovered in Mangar Bani hills of Haryana near NCT Delhi, could be clues to ‘prehistoric factory’. Amidst a maze of rocks tucked in the Aravalli mountain ranges of Haryana, a team of archaeologists discovered cave paintings they believe belong to the Upper Palaeolithic age.

Prehistoric Paintings

The pre-historic paintings were generally executed on rocks and these rock engravings were called Petroglyphs. The first set of pre-historic paintings were discovered in Bhimbetka caves in Madhya Pradesh. There are three major phases of pre-historic paintings.

Upper Paleolithic Period (40,000-10,000 BC):

· The walls of the rock shelter caves were made of quartzite hence using minerals for pigments.

· One of the most common mineral was ochre or geru mixed with lime and water.

· To widen their palette, different minerals were used to make colours like red, white, yellow and green which widened their palette.

· The white, dark red and green were used to depict large animals like bison, elephant, rhino, tigers, etc.

· For the human figurines Red was used for hunters and the green mostly for dancers.
Mesolithic Period (10,000-4000 BC):

- This period mainly saw the use of red colour.
- In comparison to the Upper Paleolithic Period, the size of the paintings became smaller during this period.
- One of the most common scenes depicted in these paintings is of group hunting and several other paintings depict grazing activity and riding scenes.

![Mesolithic Paintings](image)

Chalcolithic Period:

- This period saw an increase in the number of paintings using green and yellow colour.
- Most of the paintings seen depict battle scenes. There are many paintings of men riding horses and elephants.
- Some of them even carry bow and arrow which might indicate preparedness for skirmishes.
- The other set of paintings from this period are at Narsinghgarh in Madhya Pradesh. They have paintings to show skins of spotted deer left for drying that provides credence to the theory that the art of tanning skins was perfected by man for providing shelter and clothing.
- Other paintings from this period also have depictions of musical instruments like the harp.
- Some of the paintings have complex geometrical shapes like the spiral, rhomboid and circle.
- Jogimara Caves in the Ramgarh hills in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh houses some of the paintings from the later period. These are dated to be painted around 1000 BC.

- Chattisgarh is also home to the variety of caves in the district of Kanker like the shelter of Udkuda, Garagodi, Khairkheda, Gotitola, Kulgaon, etc.

- These shelters depict the human figurines animals, palm prints, bullock carts, etc. which show a higher and sedentary type of living. Similar paintings can be found in Ghodsar and Kohabaur rock art sites in the district of Korea.

- Another interesting site is in Chitwa Dongri (Durg district) where a chinese figure riding a donkey, pictures of dragons and agricultural sceneries can be found.

- Several interesting rock paintings have also been found in Limdariha in Bastar district and Oogdi, Sitalekhni in Surguja district.

- In Odisha, Gudahandi Rock Shelter and Yogimatha Rock Shelter are also prominent examples of early cave paintings.

**Bhimbetka Rock Paintings:**

- It is located in South of Bhopal in Vidhyan ranges of Madhya Pradesh.

- The rock shelters have more than 500 rock paintings.

- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003.

- The oldest paintings are estimated to be 30,000 years old and have survived due to its location deep inside the caves.

- There is a marked continuity in the occupancy of caves from 100,000 BC to 1000 AD with many paintings being painted on top of another.

- The paintings at Bhimbetka belong to Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Chalcolithic, early historic and even medieval period. However, most of the paintings belong to the Mesolithic age.

- The paintings generally portray every-day life of pre-historic men often in stick-like human figures Various animals like elephant, bison, deer, peacock and snake are depicted.

- The paintings also show hunting scenes and war scenes with men carrying weapons like bows, arrows, spears, shields and swords. Some paintings also have simple geometric designs and symbols.

- The other themes of the paintings are dancing, playing music, animal fighting, honey collection, etc.
· Social life is well-depicted with presence of children playing, women making food, community dancing, etc.

· Various colours like red ochre, purple, brown, white, yellow and green are used.

· Colours were obtained from natural resources, for example, Haematite ores were used for red colour.
GEOGRAPHY

GLOBAL METHANE PLEDGE

Why in News?

Recently, The Global Methane Pledge was launched at the UN COP26 climate conference in Glasgow, which is an effort led jointly by the United States and the European Union.

What is methane?

- According to the UN, 25 per cent of the warming that the world is experiencing today is because of methane, a greenhouse gas, which is also a component of natural gas. Because it is a greenhouse gas, its presence in the atmosphere increases Earth’s temperature.

- There are various sources of methane including human and natural sources. Human sources of methane include landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, wastewater treatment, and certain industrial processes, the US Environmental Protection Agency notes.

- The oil and gas sectors are among the largest contributors to human sources of methane. NASA notes that human sources (also referred to as anthropogenic sources) of methane are responsible for 60 per cent of global methane emissions.

- These emissions come primarily from the burning of fossil fuels, decomposition in landfills and the agriculture sector.

- Methane is also “the primary contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, a hazardous air pollutant, and greenhouse gas, exposure to which causes 1 million premature deaths every year,” according to the United Nations Environment Programme.

- In India, for instance, in 2019, the Ministry of Coal asked state-run coal miner Coal India Limited (CIL) to produce 2 MMSCB (million metric standard cubic metres) per day of coalbed methane (CBM) gas in the next 2 to 3 years.

- CBM, like shale gas, is extracted from what are known as unconventional gas reservoirs — where gas is extracted directly from the rock that is the source of the gas (shale in case of shale gas and coal in case of CBM).

- The methane is held underground within the coal and is extracted by drilling into the coal seam and removing the groundwater. The resulting drop in pressure causes the methane to be released from the coal.
According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), while methane has a much shorter atmospheric lifetime (12 years as compared to centuries for CO2), it is a much more potent greenhouse gas simply because it absorbs more energy while it is in the atmosphere.

**What is the Global Methane Pledge?**

- The pledge was first announced in September by the US and EU, and is essentially an agreement to reduce global methane emissions. One of the central aims of this agreement is to cut down methane emissions by up to 30 per cent from 2020 levels by the year 2030.

- Methane is the second-most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, after carbon dioxide, and, therefore, pledges related to cutting down its emissions are significant.

- According to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, methane accounts for about half of the 1.0 degrees Celsius net rise in global average temperature since the pre-industrial era.

- “Rapidly reducing methane emissions is complementary to action on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and is regarded as the single most effective strategy to reduce global warming in the near term and keep the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach,” a joint EU-US press release stated in September.

**Where India stands?**

- Even though, India not signed Global Methane Pledge, it recently announced that it will reach carbon neutrality by 2070 as part of a five-point action plan that included reducing emissions to 50% by 2030.

- India made this pledge at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 26 climate summit in Glasgow, where it also urged developed countries to deliver on their promise of climate financing.

- However, India hasn’t submitted an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) with these commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) yet.
**ECONOMY**

**CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF HAVING A BAD BANK**

**Why in News?**

The government recently said it will provide Rs 30,600 crore guarantees for security receipts to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd to buy bad loans from banks. It will also set up an India Debt Resolution Company Ltd to manage NPAs.

![Diagram of a bad bank](image)

**Security receipts** represent an undivided right or interest in a financial asset. Typically, asset reconstruction companies or a bad bank buy distressed assets paying 15 percent cash and the balance 85 percent in security receipts.

**India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL)** to manage the non-performing assets (NPAs). In this company, public sector banks (PSBs) and state-owned financial institutions will own 49 percent stake.

**Bad banks abroad**

The idea of a bad bank has been there since the 1980s when the US and Sweden became their early adopters. Bad banks have been institutionalised and considered a success in several countries including the US, Sweden, Finland, Belgium and Indonesia.

Countries like Malaysia created a bad bank sponsored by the government, the US launched the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) in 2008, Ireland, too, had set up a National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) in 2009.
How will the NARCL-IDRCL work?

The NARCL will first purchase bad loans from banks. It will pay 15% of the agreed price in cash and the remaining 85% will be in the form of “Security Receipts”. When the assets are sold, with the help of IDRCL, the commercial banks will be paid back the rest.

If the bad bank is unable to sell the bad loan, or has to sell it at a loss, then the government guarantee will be invoked and the difference between what the commercial bank was supposed to get and what the bad bank was able to raise will be paid from the Rs 30,600 crore that has been provided by the government.

What are non-performing assets?

Banks and other financial institutions are required to classify the debts owned by them into the following four categories:

a) **Standard**: It is a kind of performing asset which creates continuous income and repayments as and when they become due.

b) **Sub-standard**: Loans and advances which are non-performing assets for a period of 12 months.

c) **Doubtful**: The assets considered as non-performing for a period of more than 12 months

d) **Loss**: All those assets which cannot be recovered by the lending institutions

Out of the above four, a non-performing asset would be either a sub-standard, doubtful or a loss asset.

Challenges for bad banks

Most of these bad assets are already fully provided for, written down on the books of banks. The banks no longer nurture hopes of a meaningful recovery.

From these assets, the most critical part will be how banks arrive at a valuation for the transfer of these assets to the bad bank. The ability of the bad bank to resolve these assets in a time-bound manner will be critical for future provision write back by banks.

Another issue, which may arise, is selling stressed assets to potential buyers and resolving the underlying crisis in the system.

In the current situation, when economic conditions are deteriorating and the IBC suspended, finding potential buyers for distressed assets can be a significant challenge. Also, the public sector banks will be both shareholders and customers of the bad bank—
and it leads to the danger of the bad bank being nothing more than a means to shift some bad debt from one book to another.

**Benefits**

It will help lenders get rid of bad assets by transferring them to the bad bank and clean up their books. The bad bank will release capital for the banks and enable them to re-start lending. It will be more result-oriented and hence be better able to recover the dues from the borrowers.

As it is supported by the government, it will not delay resolution due to governance deficiencies, slow-moving judicial architecture, poorly designed regulation, etc—the major issues faced by ARCs. Overall, it will give a huge boost to the macro economy.
ENVIRONMENT
HIGH AMBITION COALITION (HAC) FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE

Why in News?
India Joins High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People

The High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People is an informal intergovernmental group of 75+ countries. Costa Rica and France lead the Coalition. United Kingdom acts as an Ocean co-chair.

Formation: It was initiated at the “One Planet Summit” in Paris in January 2021.

Members: HAC members currently include a mix of countries in the global north and south; European, Latin American, Africa and Asia countries are among the members. India, joined on October 2021, is the first of the BRICS bloc of major emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to join the HAC.

Together, these countries represent more than:

- 30% of global terrestrial biodiversity
- 25% of terrestrial carbon reserves
- 28% of priority areas for marine biodiversity and more than a third of ocean carbon reserves.

Objective: To champion a global deal for nature and people that can halt the accelerating loss of species, and protect vital ecosystems that are the source of our economic security with the central goal of achieving 30x30 target. Thus, the aim of the coalition is to gather as many governments as possible, targeting in priority those that can influence current negotiations on the adoption of the target.

What is 30x30 target?
It aims to protect 30% of the planet’s land and 30% of its oceans by 2030, within the future global framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) for the protection of biodiversity.

This is a science-based target that reflects the recommendations of the IPBES and the IUCN. These institutions have identified protected areas as essential and effective solutions for the preservation of species and ecosystems and recommended that their scope increase significantly, up to at least 30% by 2030.
The 30% target is not just a quantitative target. It will also serve to ensure that protected areas cover sites of particular importance for biodiversity and that they are well connected and managed effectively, while making sure that indigenous peoples and local communities are involved in the process.

**Strategies:** The HAC will utilize the platforms such as UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COPs and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to push for ambitious, science-driven global action to safeguard nature and humanity’s future.

**Additional facts:**

**What is one planet summit?**

It was an idea of the French President Emmanuel Macron to respond to the ecological emergency. It was Co-organized with the United Nations and the World Bank, this summit aimed at bringing new tangible responses to the mobilization of the finance sector in the fight against climate change.

The first summit in 2017 at Paris was held to mark the two-year anniversary of the Paris climate change agreement, a landmark deal that created a legal framework uniting the actions of countries around the world, including the main emitters of greenhouse gases. The first summit was held under the theme “Climate Change Financing” and sought to mobilise funding to advance projects fighting climate change, including renewable energies, clean transport, agriculture, buildings and sustainable cities.

The 4th edition of the One Planet Summit was held again at Paris on 2021 with the theme: mobilizing and taking action for biodiversity i.e. biodiversity conservation.
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

LASSA FEVER

Why was in news?

The very rare lassa fever a viral communicable diseases started budding in united kingdom and caused concern about the spread.

What is lassa fever?

The disease was discovered in 1969 in Nigeria's Lassa town.

The World Health Organisation defines Lassa fever as an animal-borne acute viral hemorrhagic fever caused by multimamamate rats.

Cases of the disease are mostly reported from Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo and Nigeria in West Africa and the disease is largely endemic to the region.

What causes Lassa fever?

- The primary cause of Lassa fever is exposure to the infected multimammate rats.

- Lassa virus spreads through faeces and urine of these rats.

- Exposure of food and household items to the virus is also considered a leading cause for the spread of the disease.

- The Mastomys rats are known for living in human settlements, thus increasing chances of exposure to the virus through food.

- The rodents also serve as a source of food themselves.

- The virus can also infect humans if air contaminated by the excretion of infected rats is inhaled.

- Human-to-human transmission of the virus is also possible, although it is not known to spread through casual contact like hugging, shaking hands or sitting near an infected person.

- Chances of human transmission increase in healthcare settings in the absence of adequate control measures.

Symptoms of lassa fever

- Exposure to Lassa virus can cause fever, fatigue, and headache. In severe cases, symptoms like haemorrhaging, facial swelling, low blood pressure, chest and back
pain etc may also develop. Shocks, seizures, and coma have also been reported as symptoms of Lassa fever.

- Deafness is a prominent symptom associated with Lassa fever. Around 25% of recovered patients exhibit deafness of varied levels, and hearing is partially restored in half the cases.

**How Lassa fever is recognized and tested?**

Clinical diagnosis of Lassa fever is challenging because of the similarity in symptoms with other diseases like Ebola, malaria, and typhoid fever.

The most common method used to detect Lassa fever is enzyme-linked immunosorbent serologic assays (ELISA).

Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), the most efficient test used to diagnose Covid-19, can also be used to detect infection by Lassa virus.

**Treatment**

Antiviral drug ribavirin is often used to treat Lassa fever. Oxygenation, and treatment of specific complications arising due to the disease. Preventive vaccines are currently under research and development.
CURRENT AFFAIRS

AMBERGRIS

Why in news?

Mumbai Police has arrested five people and seized nearly 9 kg of Ambergris.

Ambergris

- Ambergris, which means gray amber in French, is a waxy substance that originates from the digestive system of the protected sperm whales. It is incorrectly referred to as 'whale vomit'. It is produced only by an estimated 1% of sperm whales.

Sperm whales

- Sperm whale, (Physeter catodon), also called cachalot, the largest of the toothed whales, easily recognized by its enormous square head and narrow lower jaw. The sperm whale is dark blue-gray or brownish, with white patches on the belly. It is thickset and has small paddle-like flippers and a series of rounded humps on its back.

- They are found in temperate and tropical waters throughout the world. The greatest threats to sperm whales are those of habitat impacts including noise pollution and climate change.

- Protection status

  ü IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

  ü CITES: Appendix I

  ü Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: schedule I

- Chemically, ambergris contains alkaloids, acids, and a specific compound called ambreine, which is similar to cholesterol. It floats around the surface of the water body and at times settles on the coast. Because of its high value it is referred to as floating gold. 1 kg of ambergris is worth Rs 1 crore in the international market.

- It is produced in the gastrointestinal tract of some of the sperm whales for the passage of hard, sharp objects that are ingested when the whale eats large quantities of marine animals.

- Uses: It is used in the perfume market, especially to create fragrances like musk. It is believed to be in high demand in countries like Dubai that have a large perfume market. Ancient Egyptians used it as incense. It is also believed to be used in some traditional medicines and as a spice.
Smuggling: Due to its high value it has been a target for smugglers especially in coastal areas. Since the sperm whale is a protected species, hunting of the whale is not allowed. However, smugglers are known to have illegally targeted the fish in order to obtain the valuable Ambergris from its stomach.

Laws on Ambergris

Due to its high value, Ambergris has been a target for smugglers especially in coastal areas. There have been several cases where the coastline of Gujarat has been used for such smuggling. Since the sperm whale is a protected species, hunting of the whale is not allowed. However, smugglers are known to have illegally targeted the fish in order to obtain the valuable Ambergris from its stomach. However, as per Kemp, Ambergris is produced only by an estimated one percent of sperm whales.

Legalities and recent cases of seizure in India

While there is a ban on possession and trade of ambergris in countries like the USA, Australia and India, in several other countries it is a tradable commodity.

In the Indian context, the sperm whales are a protected species under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and possession or trade of any of its by-products, including Ambergris is illegal.

It has been observed that the gangs smuggling the ambergris procure it from coastal areas and ship it to destination countries via some other countries with whom India has comparatively less stringent sea trade.
KIND ATTENTION !!
OUR BOOK IS THE ONLY BOOK ON GOVERNANCE WHICH COVERS THE WHOLE SYLLABUS

GOVERNANCE IN INDIA
By M. KARTHIKEYAN

# C-40, 2nd Avenue, Anna Nagar West, Chennai - 40.
89396 96868
89396 96869
info@aramiasacademy.com
www.aramiasacademy.com

aramias_academy
Aram.Academy.IAS
aramias_academy
aimcivilservices
aramiasacademy.com