

Government prohibits use of certain antimicrobial substances in Aquaculture Industry

Prohibition order, notified by the **Department of Commerce, Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry** under the **Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act (1963)**, bans several antibiotics, antivirals and antiprotozoals, such as Carboxypenicillins, Favipiravir, Nitazoxanide, etc.

Why were these substances banned?

- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): Indiscriminate use of antimicrobials** in aquaculture contributes to AMR.
 - ⊕ AMR is the ability of microorganisms to **resist the effects of drugs, making infections harder to treat.**
- **Impact on Seafood Exports:** Residues of antimicrobials in exported seafood **risk import rejections** under the non-tariff measures such as **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.**

What are Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures?

- **Definition:** SPS measures are **biosecurity measures** to protect **human, animal, and plant health** from **pests, diseases, and contaminants in food & feed.**
- These measures are governed by the WTO's **Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (1995).**
 - ⊕ This Agreement provides rules for WTO Members to develop, adopt, and enforce scientific and non-discriminatory SPS measures with regard to international trade while minimizing trade disruptions.
- **Recommended International Standards** under the SPS Agreement include:
 - ⊕ **FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex)** for food safety;
 - ⊕ **World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)** for animal health and zoonoses;
 - ⊕ **FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC):** for plant protection.

Jenu Kuruba tribe occupies land in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve of Karnataka

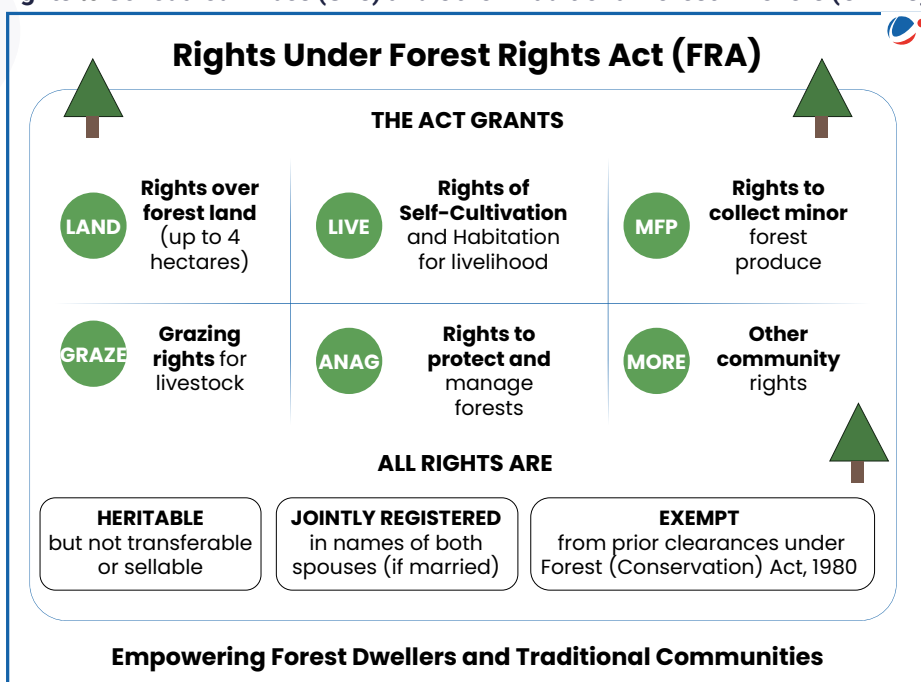
Jenu Kuruba, a tribe known for traditionally collecting honey and forest produce, have made occupation to assert their rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).

About FRA, 2006

- **Official Name:** The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- **Objective:** To recognize and legally **grant forest rights** to **Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs)** who have lived in and depended on forests for at least three generations or 75 years before 13th December 2005.
- **Responsibilities of Right Holders:** Protect wildlife, forests, and biodiversity, Safeguard water sources, catchment areas, and other sensitive zones, etc.
- **Role of Gram Sabha:** Initiates the process of identifying and verifying forest rights, Hears and passes resolutions on claims
- **Appeals:** If aggrieved, a person can appeal to the **Sub-Divisional Level Committee** set up by the State

Challenges in Implementation of FRA

- **Unclear identification** of STs and OTFDs
- **Low awareness** among forest dwellers
- **Bureaucratic delays** and **legal hurdles**
- **Uneven implementation** despite nationwide rollout



Supreme Court submitted the in-house inquiry report to the President of India

Earlier, a 3 member inquiry committee of judges was set up to look into the allegations of cash found in High Court Judge's residence.

- It is learnt that a **recommendation** was made to the President to initiate the process of **removal of the judge**.

Constitutional Provisions for removal of Judges of the Higher Judiciary

- Under Articles 124(4) and Article 217(1)(b)**, a Supreme Court or High Court judge can be removed by the President on grounds of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity**.
 - The President can pass order only **after both Houses of Parliament pass an address for removal in the same session** supported by **special majority** (a majority of the total membership, and at least two-thirds of members present and voting).
- Article 124(5)** empowers the **Parliament to regulate, by law, the procedure for the presentation** of an address and for the investigation and proof.

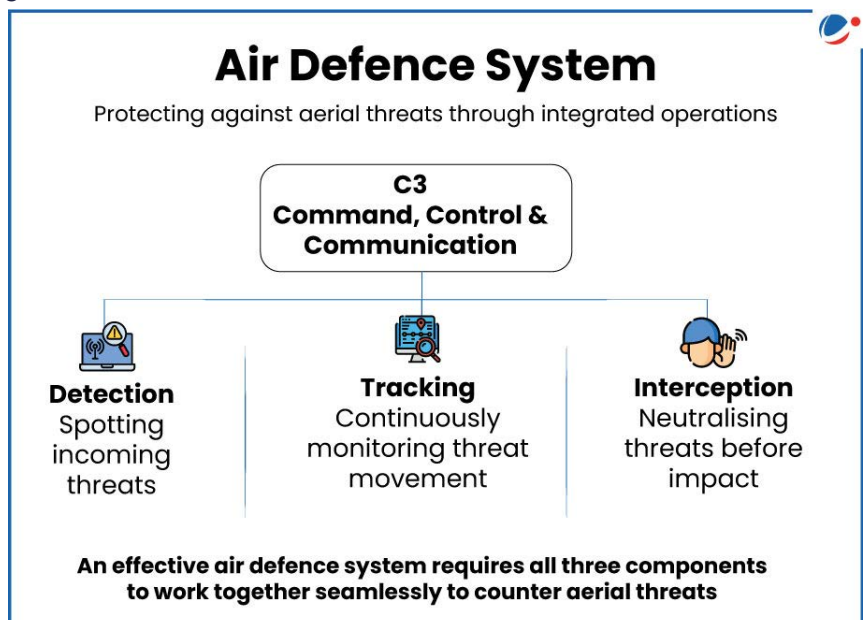
Procedure under Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968

- A **motion for removal** must be signed by at least 100 members in the Lok Sabha (LS) or 50 members in the Rajya Sabha (RS).
- Speaker of LS or Chairman of RS** may, after **due consultation**, **admit or reject the motion**.
- On admission, a **3-member Inquiry Committee** is formed consisting of **one Supreme Court Judge, one High Court Chief Justice, and one distinguished jurist** (in the opinion of Speaker/Chairman).
- If **guilt or incapacity is proven**, both Houses must pass the motion with a **special majority in the same session**; thereafter, an **address is sent to the President for removal**.

India's Air Defence System (ADS) Successfully Thwarted Attacks on India's Western Border

India's ADS consists of an **Integrated Counter UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Grid**, where following **surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems** played a key role.

- S-400 Triumf (Acquired from Russia)**
 - Also called **Sudarshan Chakra** in India.
 - Among the **most advanced long-range SAMs in the world**.
 - Equipped with a **command-and-control system, phased array radars** and **electronic warfare countermeasures**.
 - Offers complete **360-degree radar and missile coverage**.
 - Multi-missile compatibility **enables layered defence**.
 - Can track and engage **multiple targets at once**.
 - Range & Capability**
 - Tracking:** Up to 600 km
 - Engagement:** Up to 400 km
 - Altitude Coverage:** From 30 meters to 30 km (effective against low drones to high-altitude aircraft and missiles)
- Barak 8 (Jointly developed by India and Israel)**
 - Medium- to long-range (MR SAM or LR SAM)**
 - Equipped with **Mach 2 speed**.
 - Capable of **simultaneously engaging multiple targets** in the air.
 - Range up to 100 km**
 - Both **maritime and land-based variants** of the system exist.
- Akash Weapon System (Indigenously Built)**
 - Short Range SAM**
 - Equipped with **built-in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM)**.
 - Can simultaneously **engage Multiple Targets in Group Mode or Autonomous Mode**.
 - Range & Capability**
 - Range:** 4.5 km to 25 km
 - Altitude of Operation:** 100 m up to 20 km
 - High **immunity against active and passive jamming**.
 - Fully automatic** with quick response time from detection to kill.
 - Guidance System:** Command Guidance



Rohingyas are Foreigners and may be dealt with as per the Foreigners Act: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court (SC), while hearing petitions related to **deportation and living conditions of Rohingya refugees**, highlighted that they cannot claim reliefs based on the **UNHCR cards**.

- **UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees)** is a global organization to protect **refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people**.
 - ⊕ India is **not** a signatory to the **1951 Convention on Refugees** and its 1967 Protocol.

Statutory Provisions in India related to Refugees and Deportation

- India does **not** have a **separate law** to deal with 'refugees'. Thus, case for refugee 'status' are considered on a **case-by-case basis** based on the **policy of bilateralism**.
 - ⊕ Refugees come under the definition of 'alien' and 'foreigners'.
- **Foreigners Act, 1946**: Section 3 of the Foreigners Act vest the **Central Government** with powers to **detain and deport** foreign nationals staying **illegally** in the country.
- **Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920**: Centre may direct the **removal** of any foreigner from India who enters India **without passport & visa**.
 - ⊕ According to **Articles 258(1) and 239(1)** of the Constitution, **States/UTs** are also entrusted with these powers.

Other Provisions

- India accepted the **principle of non-refoulement** as envisaged in the **Bangkok Principles on Status and Treatment of Refugees, 1966**.
 - ⊕ **Principle of non-refoulement** prohibits transfer of a person from one authority to another when there are **substantial grounds** for believing that person would be in **danger** of being subjected to **fundamental rights violation**.
- **Mohammad Salimullah and Ors vs. Union of India and Ors (2021)**: SC highlighted that rights under **Articles 14 and 21** are available to **all persons (including non-citizens)**. But the **right not to be deported**, is ancillary or concomitant to the **right to reside or settle under Article 19(1)(e)**.

Karnataka Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Disqualified After Conviction

A Karnataka MLA was disqualified after being convicted by a CBI court in an illegal mining case, leading to a vacancy in the constituency.

- The disqualification was made under **Article 191 of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1951**.

Disqualification of a Sitting Lawmaker

- **Constitutional Provisions: Articles 102 and 191 of the Constitution** spell out the following conditions, owing to which a Member of Parliament (MP) or an MLA (respectively) can be disqualified
 - ⊕ **Holding Office of Profit**
 - ⊕ Person of **unsound mind** (stands so declared by a competent court)
 - ⊕ An **undischarged insolvent**
 - ⊕ **Not a citizen of India** or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State
 - ⊕ **Defection**
 - ⊕ **Disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament**
- **Statutory Provision: Under the RPA, 1951**, a lawmaker is disqualified for
 - ⊕ **Conviction for two years or more in crimes** like bribery, rape, promoting enmity, or untouchability (Section 8).
 - ⊕ Involvement in **corrupt practices**
 - ⊕ Dismissal from government for **corruption/disloyalty**
 - ⊕ Having a **contract with the government**
 - ⊕ Holding a key position in a company with **25% or more government ownership**
 - ⊕ Failure to report **election expenses**
- **Duration of Disqualification for convicted lawmakers: Under Section 8 (3) of the RPA, 1951**, a lawmaker is **disqualified for the period of imprisonment and a further six years** if convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more.
 - ⊕ In the **2013 Lily Thomas v Union of India** judgment, the Supreme Court ruled that a lawmaker is **immediately disqualified** from attracting such a conviction.

Also In News



Predatory Pricing

Recently, **Competition Commission of India** has notified the **Cost Regulations, 2025** providing new definitions to **curb predatory pricing**.

About Predatory Pricing

- **Definition**: The sale of goods or provision of services at a **price below the cost** with a view to **reduce competition or eliminate competitors**.
- Section 4(2) of the **Competition Act, 2002** identifies **predatory pricing by a dominant enterprise** as an **abusive practice**.
- **Impact of predatory pricing**:
 - ⊕ **On customers**: Beneficial in the short term with lower prices but they suffer in the long term due to lesser options and higher prices.
 - ⊕ **On Companies**: Harms all companies in the short term but once competitors are driven out, the monopolised companies raise prices and recover lost profits.



Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)

The government has **revised the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)**.

About CGSS

- **Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Benefits**: Provides **credit guarantees to loans extended to DPIIT recognised startups**.
 - ⊕ This in turn facilitates startups availing **collateral-free loans**.
- **Eligible Lending Institutions**: Scheduled Commercial Banks, NBFCs and SEBI registered Venture Debt Funds (VDFs)
- **Latest Changes**:
 - ⊕ **Guarantee cover doubled** to ₹20 crore
 - ⊕ **Loan coverage increased** up to 85% for loans up to ₹10 crore
 - ⊕ Annual guarantee fee cut to 1% for key sectors



Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

Office of the Registrar General (Ministry of Home Affairs) released Special Bulletin on MMR in India 2019-21

- **MMR** is the **number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births** in a given time.
- ⊕ India has committed to the **UN target** for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) for MMR at **70 by 2030**.

Key Highlights

- **India's MMR** dropped to 93 (from 103 in 2017-19).
- **Best-Performing States:** Kerala (MMR 20), Telangana (45), Tamil Nadu (49), etc.
- **Poor Performance by Empowered Action Group (EAG) States:** Madhya Pradesh (175), Assam (167) and UP (151) still report high MMR.



Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young

Scientists have identified a new subtype of Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY).

What is MODY?

- It is a rare, **inherited form of diabetes** caused by **mutations in certain genes**, leading to **impaired insulin production or function**.
- ⊕ MODY is **divided into 14 subtypes**, each caused by mutations in different genes.
- It manifests in adolescents or young adults (**typically age <35 years**), distinguishing it from type 1 or type 2 diabetes.
- There is a **lack of significant obesity** in the patients and its **treatment requires low levels of insulin**.



Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs Program

Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment reviewed the implementation of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED) program.

About SEED Programme

- **Genesis:** Launched in 2022.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- **Objective:** To provide **quality coaching, health insurance, and housing aid** to DNT and **livelihood support** to DNT (Denotified Tribes)/ NT (Nomadic Tribes)/ SNT (Semi-Nomadic Tribes) communities.
- **Beneficiaries:** Families with an **annual income of ₹2.50 lakh or less**, who are not availing benefits from similar schemes of the central or state governments.



Coal Gasification Financial Incentive Scheme (CGFIS)

The Ministry of Coal signed the Coal Gasification Plant Development and Production Agreement (CGPDPA) with selected private and public sector companies under **Category II** of the CGFIS scheme.

- Coal Gasification is a process where **coal is partially oxidized** using air, oxygen, steam, or CO₂ to produce **fuel gas under controlled conditions**.

About CGFIS Scheme

- The scheme, **launched in 2024**, aims to achieve **100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030**, leveraging India's abundant domestic coal reserves.
- It is a key component of **India's clean coal transition strategy**.
- Category II of the CGFIS includes projects under both **private sector companies and government PSUs**.



Cloud Seeding

Delhi government approved **5 cloud-seeding trials**, to be implemented by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to combat air pollution.

About Cloud Seeding

- Cloud seeding is a **scientific weather modification technique** that involves **dispersing agents like silver iodide** into **moisture-bearing clouds** to induce **precipitation**.
- ⊕ **Silver iodide** is a yellow inorganic compound that has applications in **photography, medicine** etc.
- It is also used to **suppress hail storms** to prevent damage from the hails.
- **Advantages:** May increase **water availability** and result in economic, environmental, and human health benefits.



Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS)

CERT-In has issued advisory on **DDoS attack** threats to critical sectors after the Pahalgam terror attack.

What is a DDoS Attack?

- It is a malicious attempt to **overwhelm a target server, network, or website with a flood of traffic**, rendering it **inaccessible to legitimate users**.
- Attackers typically use a **network of hacked devices** (called a **botnet**) to send huge amounts of fake requests.
- These attacks can **slow down an adversary's computer systems** or even to **demand a ransom** in lieu of restoring the services.

Place in News



Iran (Capital: Tehran)

Iran's foreign minister is on a visit to India on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Political Features

- **Location:** West Asia
- **Land Boundaries:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan (North); Afghanistan and Pakistan (East); Iraq (West); Türkiye (Northwest).
- **Maritime Borders:** Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Surrounding water bodies:** Caspian Sea (North), Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman (South).

Geographical Features

- **Climate:** Ranges from arid and semi-arid to subtropical climate.
- **Major Rivers:** Dez, Karkheh, Karun, Diyala, etc.
- **Mountain ranges:** Zagros and Alborz.
- ⊕ **Highest Peak:** Mount Damavand (**highest mountain on the Eurasian landmass west of the Hindu Kush**) in Alborz Mountain Range.
- **Natural resources:** Oil and natural gas, Coal, Chromium, Copper, Iron ore, Lead, Manganese, Zinc, and Sulphur.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI