

Prelim Bits 06-06-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Nyaya Vikas Portal

Nyaya Vikas portal was created for monitoring the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Judicial Infrastructure.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Judicial Infrastructure

- The primary responsibility of development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary rests with the **State Governments**.
- To augment the resources of the State Governments, the Union Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Aim** - It aims for the *development of Infrastructure Facilities* for Judiciary by providing financial assistance to State Governments / UTs in the prescribed fund sharing pattern between Centre and States.
- It covers the construction of court buildings and residential accommodations for Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Judiciary.
- **Outlay** - Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)
- **Ministry** - Ministry of Law and Justice
- **Year** - The scheme being implemented since 1993-94.
- **Fund Sharing** -
 - **States** - 60:40 for States other than North Eastern and Himalayan States.
 - **For North Eastern and Himalayan States** - 90:10
 - **For Union Territories (U.T)** - 100% centrally funded
- For monitoring the status of the projects 3 broad monitoring mechanisms have been provided.
 1. High Court Level Monitoring Committee at State level
 2. Central Level Monitoring Committee in the Department of Justice, required to meet every 6 months
 3. Nyaya Vikas Online monitoring system.
- **Nyaya Vikas Portal** - It is a digital platform to monitor the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Infrastructure for Judiciary.

References

[PIB | Nyaya Vikas Portal](#)

Trimbakeshwar Temple

Shri Trimbakeshwar temple in Maharashtra witnessed communal tensions for the past 6 months.

- **Location** - Shri Trimbakeshwar Temple is located in Nashik City, Maharashtra.
- It is located near the mountain named Brahmagiri from which the river Godavari flows.
- There are 3 hills surrounding this temple - Brahmagiri, Nilagiri and Kalagiri.
- **History** - It was constructed by 3rd Peshwa Balaji Bajirao also known as Nana Saheb, in the mid-18th century (1740-1760).
- **Special features** - The entire temple is built with black stone.
- Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga is only one of the 12 jyotirlingas in India.
- **Trimbakeshwara** - It not only honor Lord Shiva but the other two gods in the Holy Trinity - Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma as well.
- They all exist within the hollow space within the Shivalinga and hence the name Trimbakeshwara (3 Lords).
- They are covered by a jewelled crown that is believed to date to the era of the Pandavas.
- Jyotirlinga means *column or pillar of light*.
- The stambha symbol represents that there is no beginning or end.

A stambha is a pillar or a column employed in Indian architecture, it sometimes bears inscriptions and religious emblems.

- The temple has a well called Amritavarshini, believed to be the source of the Godavari.
- The temple has a well called Amritavarshini, believed to be the source of the Godavari.
- **Trimbakeshwar Simhastha** - The famous pilgrimage festival, Kumbh Mela, occurs here once every 12 years.

Kumbh Mela

- It is a hindu religious festival that is celebrated 4 times over the course of 12 years.
- The site of the observance rotating between 4 pilgrimage places on four sacred rivers.
 1. Haridwar - Ganges River
 2. Ujjain - Shipra River
 3. Nashik - Godavari
 4. Prayag - Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati.

References

[The Hindu | Communal Riots in Trimbakeshwar Temple](#)

Electronic interlocking (EI) System in Railways

A change made in the electronic interlocking and point machine led to the recent train accident in Odisha.

Interlocking

- It is an integral part of railway signalling.

- It refers to a mechanism that controls the movement of trains to ensure trains move safely through a controlled area.
- The system is an arrangement of signals and points which operate so that a train can move from one track or junction to another safely, without coming in the way of another train.
- Under the system, signals and points are inter-connected mechanically or electrically or both.

Electronic interlocking (EI)

- It is an advanced signalling, computer-based system that uses electronic components to manage the movement of trains and the configuration of tracks.
- The EI, which is based on software, is designed to prevent 2 trains from running on the same track at the same time.
- It ensures that a train gets a go-ahead only when the route ahead is clear.
- The system is an alternative to the conventional Relay Interlocking system.

As of last year, 2,888 stations in India were equipped with an electronic interlocking system — comprising 45.5% of the Indian Railways network.

Components of EI

- The EI signal system comprises 3 crucial elements:
- **Signal** - Based on the status of the track ahead, signals are used to stop, proceed, or exercise caution.
- **Point switch** - A train can change its track using a point.
- These are movable sections of a track which guide the wheels towards either the straight or diverging track.
- **Track circuit** - These are electrical circuits on tracks to detect the presence of a vehicle or a train on a section of track.
- Track circuits help to verify whether a particular route is clear or occupied and if it is safe for a train to proceed.

Working of EI

- Two information points form the basis of the EI signal system
 1. A signal to pass is given based first on which direction the track is set
 2. On whether the divergent track is free of obstruction.
- All activities in the signalling system are recorded in a microprocessor-based system called a data logger.
- It acts like the black box of an aircraft and can store and process signal data to generate reports.

References

[The Hindu | Electronic Interlocking System](#)

Sunflower Consumption

Black Sea Grain Initiative led to the international vegetable oil prices falling.

- Ukraine and Russia together accounted for nearly 58% of the world's production of oilseed in 2021-22.
- As the war shut off their supplies through the Black Sea ports, prices skyrocketed.
- However, the situation changed with the *Black Sea Grain Initiative agreement* between Russia and Ukraine signed on July 22.
- The deal, brokered by the UN and Turkey, facilitated the safe navigation of vessels carrying grain and foodstuffs.
- It led to international vegetable oil prices falling below even pre-war levels.

Impact in India

India consumes 23.5-24 million tonnes (mt) of cooking oil annually, out of which 13.5-14 mt is imported and the balance 9.5-10 mt produced from domestically cultivated seed.

- Sunflower is the 4th largest consumed oil, behind mustard, soyabean and palm.
- Both sunflower and palm oil are almost wholly imported.
- This is unlike mustard and soyabean, where the share of domestic output are close to 100% and 30-32% respectively.
- The other locally produced oils — cottonseed, rice bran, groundnut, and coconut aren't big enough to influence prices.
- **Sunflower production in India** - Sunflower is being traditionally grown in Karnataka, Telangana, and Maharashtra.
- Roughly 70% of the country's sunflower oil consumption is in the Southern states with highest from Maharashtra and other states making up the rest.

References

[The Indian Express | Sunflower Consumption](#)

Dal Lake

The J&K government has attributed the death of thousands of fish in the Dal Lake in Srinagar to thermal stratification.

- Dal Lake, situated in the northeast of Srinagar in Kashmir valley.
- It is the 2nd largest lake in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The lake is probably of fluvial origin, formed from the oxbows of river Jhelum.
- Due to its beauty and attraction, Dal lake is also known as the "Jewel in crown of Kashmir or Srinagar's Jewel".

- It is declared as a protected wetland and a commercial fishing point.
- It has witnessed shore line Mughal gardens, such as Shalimar Bagh and Nishat Bagh built during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir.
- It is a part of a natural wetland including its floating gardens.
- The floating gardens, known as *Raad* in Kashmiri, blossom with lotus flowers.
- The wetland is divided by causeways into 4 basins; Gagribal, Lokut Dal, Bod Dal and Nagin (although Nagin is also considered as an independent lake).
- Lokut-dal and Bod-dal each have an island in the centre, known as Rup Lank (or Char Chinari) and Sona Lank respectively.

Thermal Stratification

- It occurs when the surface layer of water, warmed by the sun, becomes less dense than the water underneath it.
- Pollution has badly affected the Schizothorax fish harvest and has destroyed the breeding grounds of the native fish.
- Data on harvest of Schizothorax, a local fish species known as *Kashir gaad* or *Snowtrouts*, from the lake between 1989 to 2019, shows a downward trend.
- The study suggested that the lake's alkalinity has gone up.
- The chloride content of the water has drastically increased due to drainage from catchment areas, raw sewage coming from houseboats and nearby settlements and organic runoff from floating gardens.

References

[The Hindu | Dal Lake: a polluted wasteland](#)

