

## Prelim Bits 15-06-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

### Integrated Grain Storage

*The Union Cabinet recently approved the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to facilitate the world's largest grain storage plan in the cooperative sector.*

- **Launch** - 2023.
- **Aim** - To set up a network of integrated grain storage facilities through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the country.
- **Pilot Project** - Ministry of Cooperation.
- **Features** - It will spread over 1 acre of land and will be built at a cost Rs 2.25 crore.
- It will have a custom hiring centre, a multi-purpose hall - procurement centers, primary processing units for cleaning and winnowing - a storage shed, and container storage and silos.
- It is based on the hub and spoke model.
- All the 63,000 PACs will have a combined grain storage capacity of 70 million tonnes.
- **Budgetary Allocation** - The plan does not have a separate allocation and will be implemented by the convergence of 8 existing schemes under 3 ministries.

### Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

- PACS are village level cooperative credit societies that serve as the last link in a 3-tier cooperative credit structure headed by the State Cooperative Banks (SCB) at the state level.
- Credit from the SCBs is transferred to the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs), that operate at the district level.
- The DCCBs work with PACS, which deal directly with farmers.
- Individual farmers are members of the PACS, and office-bearers are elected from within them.
- They provide
  - Input facilities in form of cash (short term lending or crop loan) or kind component
  - Agriculture implements on hiring basis
  - Storage facility

### References

[The Indian Express | Integrated foodgrain storage](#)

[PIB | World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector](#)

### Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers

*India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj introduced the draft resolution titled 'Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers' in the UN General Assembly hall.*

- **Memorial Wall** - The UN General Assembly has adopted a draft resolution introduced by

- India to establish a memorial wall in the UN Headquarters to honour fallen peacekeepers.
- The resolution was submitted by 18 countries including Bangladesh, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Rwanda and the U.S.
  - The resolution was co-sponsored by nearly 190 UN Member States and was adopted by consensus.
  - In 2015, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN launched a *virtual memorial wall*, dedicated to the Indian troops who made the supreme sacrifice while doing active service as UN peacekeepers.
  - The initiative was a precursor to the eventual construction of the Peacekeepers Memorial Wall.
  - It is an appropriate way to commemorate all the troops from UN member states who had given their lives while on duty under the Blue Flag of the United Nations.

*International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers - May 29*

- **India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping** - India is currently the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest contributor** of uniformed personnel to UN Peacekeeping with more than 6,000 military and police personnel.
- About 177 Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice, the highest number by far from any troop-contributing country.

*Blue helmets are the UN military personnel that work alongside the UN Police and civilian colleagues to promote stability, security and peace processes.*

## Reference

[The Hindu | Memorial wall for fallen United Nations peacekeepers](#)

## Withdrawal of general consent for CBI

*Tamil Nadu announced that it has withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).*

## Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

- It was set up in 1963 by a resolution of the *Ministry of Home Affairs*.
- It is now under the *Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances*.
- It was established based on the recommendations of **Santhanam Committee**.
- It is a *non-constitutional* body.
- CBI is governed by *The Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946*.
- Section 6 of the DPSE Act authorises the *central government* to direct CBI to probe a case within the jurisdiction of any state *on the recommendation* of the concerned state government.
- The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country *without the consent* of the state.
- There are 2 types of consent for a probe by the CBI. These are: general and specific.
- **General Consent** - When a state gives a general consent to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.

- **Specific Consent** - When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government.
- If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.
- **States that have withdrawn the general consent** - Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Jharkhand, Punjab and Meghalaya.

## References

[The Hindu | TN Withdraws general consent for CBI](#)

[The Indian Express | Tamil Nadu withdraws general consent accorded to CBI](#)

## Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022 Report

*People forcefully displaced due to violence, climate crises saw the sharpest rise in 2022.*

- It is released annually by the United Nations refugee agency, ***Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)***.
- **Findings** - The number of people who were uprooted from their hometowns due to social and climate crises in 2022 was 21% higher than in 2021.
- More than 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2022, 30% of them were children.
- Of these, 35.3 million were people who had to move to another country for safety (refugees).
- A large share of refugees were from Ukraine, because of Russia-Ukraine War and the displacement of Ukrainians also was the global fastest since World War II.
- **Displacement because of Climate disasters** - Climate disasters caused 32.6 million internal displacements throughout 2022 and 8.7 million of the people did not manage to return home by the end of the year.
- Disaster related internal displacement accounted for more than half (54 %) of all new displacements in 2022.
- At the end of 2022, an estimated 4.4 million people worldwide were stateless or of undetermined nationality, 2% more than at the end of 2021.
- Stateless people are those who are not recognised as citizens by any government.

## United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- It is a UN Refugee Agency.
- **Aim** - To save lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- It serves as the 'guardian' of the *1951 Convention* and its *1967 Protocol*.
- So far, 146 countries are party to the 1951 Convention, and 147 to the 1967 Protocol.
- Countries that have ratified the Refugee Convention are obliged to protect refugees that are on their territory, in accordance with its terms.
- India is *not a member* to this convention nor to the protocol.

## Reference

[Down to Earth | Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022 report](#)

## Mayon Volcano

A gentle eruption of the most active volcano in Philippines has forced nearly 18,000 people to flee to emergency shelters.

- **Mayon Volcano** - It is a *highly active stratovolcano* in the southeastern Luzon, *Philippines*.
- It is called the **world's most perfect volcanic cone** because of the symmetry of its shape.
- It is located at the centre of *Mayon Volcano National Park*.
- It is located on the *Pacific Ring of Fire*, the rim of seismic faults where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.
- It's most destructive eruption was in 1814, when the town of Cagsawa was buried and approximately 1,200 people were killed.

## Pacific Ring of Fire

- *Pacific Ring of Fire or Circum-Pacific Belt* is a long seismically active belt along the Pacific Ocean characterized by earthquake epicentres, active volcanoes, and tectonic plate boundaries.
- It is home to about *75% of the world's volcanoes and about 90% of earthquakes* occur here.
- It traces boundaries between several tectonic plates - The Pacific, Cocos, Indian-Australian, Nazca, North American, and Philippine Plates.
- The abundance of volcanoes and earthquakes along the Ring of Fire is caused by the amount of *movement of tectonic plates* in the area.



## Reference

[The Indian Express | Mayon Volcano Eruption](#)

