



# Daily News Analysis by UPSC TREE

Quote of the day

**“To a man with a hammer, everything looks like a nail”**

**— Abraham Maslow**



# News-1

## Flagging fortunes of Khadi flag-maker

**Context :-** While the nation is busy making preparations for the platinum jubilee celebrations of Independence, the mood at **the country's sole Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-recognised National Flag manufacturing unit of Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha, Bengeri, at Hubballi in Karnataka**, is not upbeat. This is the unit which **supplies the Tricolour to be hoisted atop the Red Fort.**

### Details:-

- 1) The amendment to the Flag Code came as a shocker not only to the Samyukta Sangha but also to all those involved in the Khadi and Village Industries..
- 2) Quite ironically, there is no demand for khadi flags manufactured here even when the government has launched the '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' campaign. One reason for this is the size specified under the campaign (20X30 inches and 16x27 inches) is not permitted under the BIS' standards for the national flag.
- 3) The unit in Hubballi, recognised by BIS in 2004, meticulously follows the Flag Code and manufactures **only nine specified** sizes of the flag.
- 4) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the Flag Code on July 20 to allow a **member of the public to hoist the flag at their houses at day and night.**
- 5) The amendment in December 2021 said, "**The National Flag shall be made of handspun and hand woven or machine made, cotton/ polyester/ wool/ silk khadi bunting.**" Earlier machine made and polyester flags were not allowed to be used.

# News-2

## Monkeypox is 'public health emergency

**Context:-**The World Health Organization has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC/ Public Health Emergency of International Concern), one step below that of a “pandemic”.

### **Details:-**

- ❖ Monkeypox is an illness caused by the monkeypox **virus**. It is a viral **zoonotic** infection, meaning that it can spread from animals to humans. It can also spread from person to person.
- ❖ Monkeypox spreads from **person to person** through close contact with someone who has a monkeypox rash, including through face-to-face, skin-to-skin, mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-skin contact, including sexual contact.
- ❖ **The virus can also spread from someone who is pregnant to the fetus**, after birth through skin-to-skin contact, or from a parent with monkeypox to an infant or child during close contact.
- ❖ The virus is **endemic to Central or Western Africa**.
- ❖ **Public health experts point out that given the transmission dynamics of monkeypox, the secondary attack rate of the virus is less than 10%, indicating that even amongst close family contacts of confirmed cases, the chances of monkeypox spreading are remote**

# News-3

## Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, 2019

**Context:-** Once enacted, the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill will bring the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea into domestic law.

If passed, the Bill will bring the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) into domestic law and enable Indian authorities to take action against piracy on the high seas.

### What is the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill?

1. Previously, pirates were prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC), under provisions dealing with armed robbery and the admiralty jurisdiction of specific courts. However, **India's sovereignty is delimited by the outer boundary of its territorial waters— 12 nautical miles from the coast.**
2. Acts of piracy committed by a foreigner outside India's territorial waters cannot be an offence under the IPC, and those accused in piracy cases have been acquitted due to the lack of jurisdiction.
3. The Bill will apply to the sea **beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), that is, beyond 200 nautical miles from India's coastline.**



### What is the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea?

1. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is a set of rules to govern the oceans and the use of their resources. It is based on the idea that all problems related to oceans are interrelated and need to be addressed by the global community as a whole.

2. After over 14 years of collaborative work by more than 150 countries of the world, the Convention was opened for signature on December 10, 1982, in **Montego Bay, Jamaica**.

3. UNCLOS **governs all aspects of ocean space**, including delimitation, environmental control, marine scientific research, economic and commercial activities, transfer of technology and the settlement of ocean-related disputes.

### What is the need for anti-piracy regulations?

- ❖ **Gulf of Aden**, which **separates Somalia and Yemen and connects the Arabian Sea to the Red Sea** and further to the **Mediterranean Sea** through the **Suez Canal**, has been one of the **deadliest areas in the oceans** due to a large number of piracy incidents.
- ❖ This is **also one of the most important trade routes for countries in Asia, Europe, and on the eastern coast of Africa**.
- ❖ Due to an increased naval presence in the Gulf of Aden, **it has been observed that piracy operations are shifting towards the east and south, which increases their proximity to India's west coast**.

### What is the punishment for offences as per the Bill?

- ❖ For committing acts of piracy, the convicts shall be punished with **imprisonment for life or death in case the act of piracy itself causes the death or attempts to cause the death of another person**.

# News-4

## What is 'TOPS' - India's bid to boost its Olympic medal tally

### Context :-

- Gearing up for the **Olympic Games in 2024 in Paris** and **2028 in Los Angeles**, the Centre on June 29 invited ace shooter Gagan Narang to join as a member of the **Mission Olympic Cell (MOC)** for the **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)**.

### What is TOPS?

- ❑ Flagged off in September **2014**, the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) was launched to improve India's performance at the Olympics and Paralympics, thereby improving India's medal tally in the Rio Olympics 2016.

### India's performance in 2021 Olympics & Paralympics

- ❑ Recording its best-ever performance at the Games, India won seven medals — Ravi Kumar Dahiya, Bajrang Punia, Lovlina Borgohain, Neeraj Chopra, Mirabai Chanu, PV Sindhu, and the Indian hockey team.
- ❑ 23-year-old **Neeraj Chopra** bagged India's first Olympic gold in athletics with his 87.58m hurl at the men's **javelin** throw event, while ace shuttler **P.V. Sindhu** created history by winning the **bronze in the badminton** event and becoming the **first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals**.
- ❑ The **Indian men's hockey team won the bronze medal**, ending the nation's 41-year Olympic medal drought in hockey.
- ❑ The women's hockey team narrowly missed the podium but finished fourth beating Olympic champions Australia in the quarter-finals.
- ❑ 19-year-old **Avani Lekhara** became the **first Indian woman to win Paralympics gold**.

# News-5

## Media is running kangaroo courts: CJI Ramana

### Context:-

- Chief Justice of India **N.V. Ramana** on Saturday said the media is running "**kangaroo courts**" on issues even experienced judges find difficult to decide.
- He said. **ill-informed, biased and agenda-driven debates in the media on issues pending in courts are affecting justice delivery**
- "New media tools have enormous amplifying ability but appear to be incapable of distinguishing between the right and the wrong, the good and the bad and the real and the fake. **Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases,**"
- **Media has breached its responsibility, taking democracy two steps backwards, affecting people and harming the system,** the Chief Justice said.
- **Print media** still has certain degree of accountability. Whereas, electronic media has zero accountability as to what it shows vanishes in thin air. Still worse is **social media**.
- Owing to the frequent transgressions and consequent social unrests, there is a growing demand for stricter media regulations and accountability.
- **Read about media trial and famous cases:-**
  - [\[Polity\] Famous Media Trails in India. – UPSC TREE](#)
  - **Write and Essay on Media Trail (1200 words):-**
    - "The Fourth pillar of democracy has failed the democracy"

# News-6

## Farm panel deadlock

### Story so far:-

- On July 18, the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry formed a committee, headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal, to “**promote zero budget based farming, to change crop pattern keeping in mind the changing needs of the country, and to make MSP (minimum support price) more effective and transparent,**” as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19, 2021 while announcing the repeal of three controversial farm laws.
- Three slots were kept vacant in the 28-member committee to accommodate nominees of the **Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM)**, the umbrella body of about 300 farmers’ organizations that spearheaded the protests against the three farm laws.

### Why is the farmers’ organization upset?

1. The SKM, which faced a minor split recently, is upset that the former Agriculture Secretary is chairman of the panel as he was at the helm when the Centre launched the three farm laws as ordinances.
2. It also alleges that Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand, who is also in the panel, was the main advocate of the farm laws.
3. Economists C.S.C. Shekhar and Sukhpal Singh have been against giving legal status to MSP, the SKM argues.
4. Both factions of the SKM also allege that the five members representing other farmers’ associations are either directly associated with the BJP-RSS or support their policies.

### What do the farmers want?

1. The farmers want legal guarantee of MSP, which should be as per the recommendation of the **M.S. Swaminathan formula — C2** (input cost for the farming, including the land value) +50%; withdrawal of all cases against farmers who participated in protests.

## What is the MSP on key crops now?

1. The government fixes MSPs for **22 mandated agricultural crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane** on the basis of the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, after considering the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments.
2. The 22 mandated crops include **14 kharif crops** such as **paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, tur, moong, urad, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, cotton** and **six rabi crops** including **wheat, barley, gram, masur and mustard** and **two commercial crops** **jute** and **copra**.

## What happens next?

Farmers argue that the MSP is much less than the C2+50% formula. But the Centre says there is substantial improvement in the income of farmers as there is a consistent increase in MSP. "The struggle for the legal guarantee of MSP to ensure fair price for the crop to the farmers will continue," the SKM says.

# News-7

## How will the Supreme Court ruling on abortion impact women?

### Story so far:-

- Last week, the **Supreme Court of India** allowed an **unmarried woman to end her pregnancy at 24 weeks, after the Delhi High Court refused to allow it**, citing the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act.
- The top court said if a medical board assessed that the pregnancy could be terminated without any harm to the mother, then she could go ahead and have an abortion.

### Delhi High Court's judgement:-

1. The Delhi High Court had taken the view that she was unmarried and since the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act allowed only married women to terminate the pregnancy after 20 weeks, she would not be eligible to get an abortion.**
2. The Court said it would amount to killing the foetus, since she was in the 23rd week of her pregnancy. "As of today, **Rule 3B of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 2003 stands**, and this court, while exercising its power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, 1950, cannot go beyond the statute," it observed in its order on July 15.

### Supreme Court's Judgement:-

1. The Supreme Court, however, took an expansive view of the issue. A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and A.S. Bopanna said the **MTP Act which was amended in 2021 has the word partner instead of husband, exhibiting the intention of the law of the land to not confine it to only marital relationships.**
2. The judges said that the **petitioner cannot be denied the benefit of the law, on the ground that she was unmarried, and that doing so would be contrary to the 'object and spirit' of the legislation.**

*As per the MTP Act, all women are allowed to get a medical termination of pregnancy before 20 weeks. But only certain categories of women are allowed to have an abortion between 20 and 24 weeks — survivors of rape, minors, and a married woman whose relationship status has altered during this period.*

## One Liner Current Affairs

1. The **Srisailem Dam** is constructed across the **Krishna** River in Nagarkurnool district , **Telangana** and Nandyal district, **Andhra Pradesh** near Srisailem temple town and is the **2nd largest capacity working hydroelectric station** in the country. The dam was constructed in a deep gorge in the **Nallamala Hills**.
2. **Rajasthan has tagged its tourism sector as an industry.**
3. **Agastyamalai Biosphere reserve:-** Part in **Kerala** and Part in **Tamilnadu**; It encompasses the following wildlife sanctuaries: **Shendurney** Wildlife Sanctuary, **Peppara** Wildlife Sanctuary, **Neyyar** Wildlife Sanctuary, and **Kalakkad Mundanthurai** Tiger Reserve.
4. **Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary** (PNP) is a protected area located in Kerala, India. It is notable as an **elephant reserve and a tiger reserve**.
5. **Anaimalai Tiger Reserve**, earlier known as Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, is a protected area in **Tamil Nadu**
6. **Mudumalai-Bandipur-Nagarhole-Wayanad complex”** preserves the world’s largest tiger population in a single region. **Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary (in Tamil Nadu)** and the **Bandipur National Park (in Karnataka)** are the components of a single spectacular ecological continuum that also includes **Nagarhole (in Karnataka)** and **Wayanad (in Kerala)** wildlife sanctuaries.
7. This was the first Mughal emperor to feast on nothing but different kinds of mangoes for a meal :- **Allauddin Khilji**





# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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