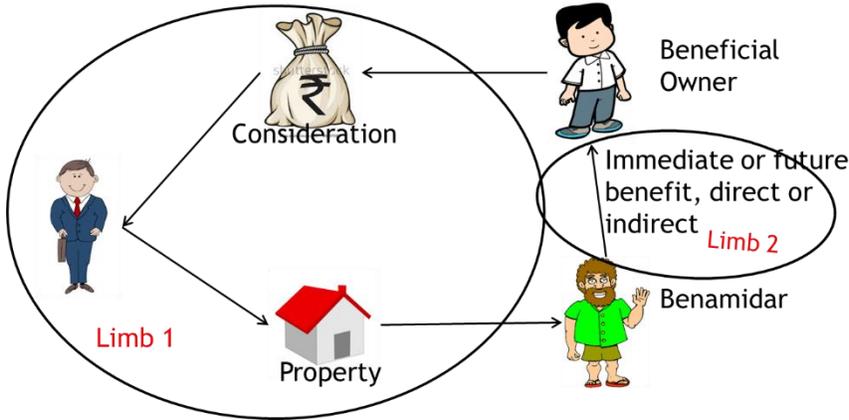


# 1. Benami Transaction Act

**Topic: Polity and Governance**



**In News:** Supreme court has stricken down the two provisions of Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988, on Tuesday.

**More on the Topic:**

**About Benami Transaction Act:**

- Introduced in 1988, the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act prohibits Benami transactions and gives the government the right to recover Benami property.
- According to the act, a Benami transaction is a transaction "where a property is transferred to or is held by, a person, and the consideration for such property has been provided, or paid by, another person".
- It also includes transactions where "the property is held for the immediate or future benefit, direct or indirect, of the person who has provided the consideration."
- According to the law, **the Centre can confiscate any property that has been tagged as a Benami property.**
- Cash and sensitive information can also be termed as 'property' under the act.

**The 2016 Amendment:**

- 2016 amendment **expanded scope and punishment for benami transactions** and also added a provision for confiscation of the property obtained as result of benami transaction.
- The new punishment was also being **applied retrospectively** to the transactions that took place before 2016.
- SC ruled that the Section **3(2) of 1988 Act (accordingly of 2016 act also) is unconstitutional for being arbitrary and violative of Article 20(1) of Constitution** (prohibits retrospective punishment for a crime).
- SC stated that the provisions under section 3 are '**unduly harsh**' and **declared them unconstitutional.**
- The provisions under section 5, which allows the government to confiscate the property, **were also declared unconstitutional and they were 'half-baked'.**

**Source: Indian Express**

## 2. Food Security Act

Topic: Polity and Governance



**In News:** The Supreme Court has directed the Government of India to increase coverage under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) so that “more and more needy persons/citizens get the benefit” under NFSA.

### More on the Topic:

- The SC reiterated the need to ensure registration of unorganised sector workers, emphasizing that the purpose and need for registration is to ensure that they are able to access benefits under various welfare schemes and policies.

### About Food Security Act:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 was notified to provide food and nutritional security.
- The objective of the Act is to provide for food and nutritional security in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to an adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

### Provisions of the Act:

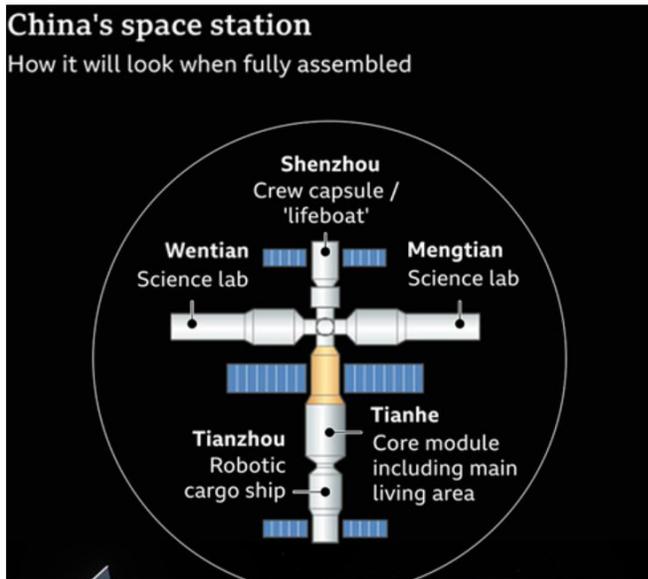
- The Act provides for **coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the population.
- The eligible persons will be entitled to receive 5 Kgs of food grains per person per month at subsidized prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
- **The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor, will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains** per household per month.
- Corresponding to the all-India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, **State-wise coverage is determined by the Central Government.**
- **The work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs.**

- **Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children in the age group of 6 months to 14 years are entitled to meals** as per prescribed nutritional norms under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes.
- **Children up to 14 years of age are entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards.** In case of non-supply of entitled food grains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive a food security allowance.
- Besides meals to **pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after childbirth, such women are entitled to receive maternity benefits of not less than Rs. 6,000.**
- **The eldest woman of the household age 18 years or above be the head of the household** to issue ration cards.
- **Grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.** States will have the flexibility to use the existing machinery or set up separate mechanisms.

Source: Indian Express

### 3. Spectrographic Investigation of Nebular Gas (SING)

**Topic: Science and Technology**



**In News:** India-China dispute may affect space project Spectrographic Investigation of Nebular Gas (SING).

**More on the Topic:**

- The project includes Indian astrophysicists ambitious project to install an Indian-made spectroscope aboard the developing Chinese space station Tiangong.

- Indian astrophysicists have been involved in an ambitious project to install an Indian-made spectroscope aboard the developing Chinese space station Tiangong.
- India and China have been collaborators in the past on research projects such as the **Giant Metre Wave Radio Telescope**, a Pune-based observatory that's employed by astrophysicists across the world to study radiation at metre-scale resolutions to observe and analyse stars and galaxies.

#### Tiangong Space Station:

- The space station will operate in **low-Earth orbit** at an altitude of 340-450 km above Earth's surface.
- Tiangong, which means "heavenly palace", is expected to become fully operational by the end of the year and is set to be operational for at least 10-15 years.
- The low orbit space station would be providing round the clock bird's-eye view for its astronauts on the rest of the world.
- It will help China's aim to become a major space power by 2030.
- It replicates the International Space Station (ISS), from which China was excluded.

Source: Hindu

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## 4. Anang Tal Lake

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** The Anang Tal lake in South Delhi, believed to have been built a thousand years ago, has been declared a monument of national importance through a gazette notification by the Ministry of Culture.

#### More on the Topic:

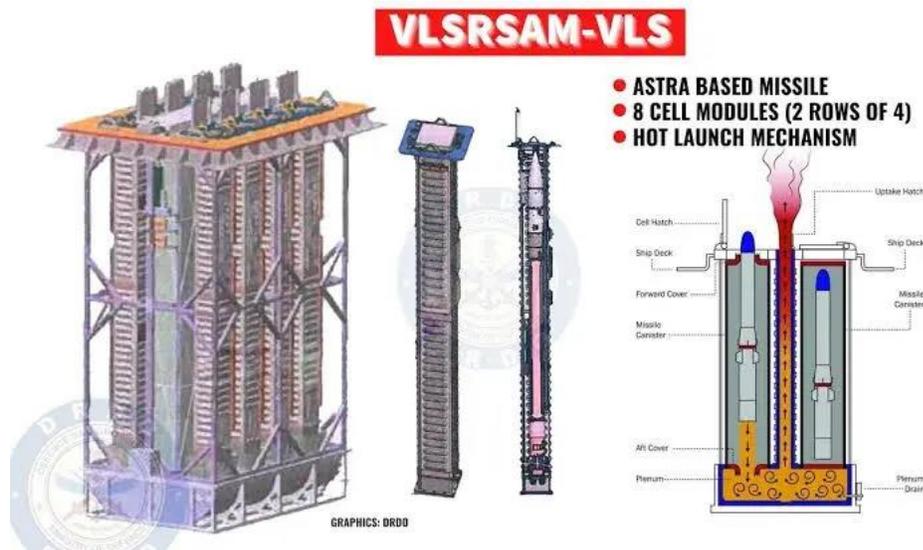
- Anang Tal is situated "to the north of Jog Maya temple and approximately 500 metres to the northwest of Qutub Complex", and dates back to 1,060 AD.

- “Tradition ascribes this tank to a **Tomar King, Anangpal II**, the builder of Lal Kot.
- Multiple inscriptions and coins suggest Anangpal Tomar was the ruler of present-day Delhi and Haryana in between the 8th-12th centuries.
- It is said to have been a place of a general resort but now it is dried up and used for cultivation.

Source: Indian Express

## 5. Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)

Topic: Science and Technology



**In News:** The indigenously-developed ship-borne weapon system, Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM), was successfully flight tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy.

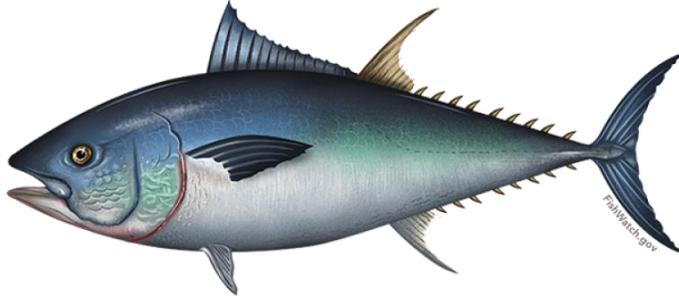
**More on the Topic:**

- VL-SRSAM, jointly designed by three facilities of the DRDO for Indian Naval warships, is meant for neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.
- Its design is based on the **Astra missile, which is a Beyond Visual Range Air to Air missile.**
- VL-SRSAM is a **canisterised system**, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments. In the canister, the inside environment is controlled thus making its transport and storage easier and improving the shelf life of weapons.
- The missiles, equipped with indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy.

Source: Business Standard

## 6. Pacific Bluefin Tuna

**Topic: Environment and Ecology**



**In News:** The biomass of the Pacific Bluefin Tuna has increased and is second-highest in recorded history. The increase is due to conservation efforts.

### More on the Topic:

- The biomass had shrunk to a sliver of its potential unfished biomass (another major assessment metric for the species) through the late 1990s and 2000s due to overfishing.
- The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission rolled out measures from 2001 that reduced catch of smaller bluefin and limited that of the larger ones. This allowed more fish to grow to maturity.
- Bluefin are the **largest tunas and can live up to 40 years**. They migrate across all oceans and can dive deeper than 3,000 feet.
- They hunt by sight and have the sharpest vision of any bony fish.

**Source: Business Standard**

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## 7. Anna Mani

### Topic: Personalities in News



**In News:** Google Doodle has celebrated Indian physicist and meteorologist Anna Mani on her birthday anniversary.

#### More on the Topic:

- Dr Anna Modayil Mani is referred to as “The Weather Woman of India.” She led the efforts, primarily through instrumentation, to study solar and wind energy, and atmospheric ozone.
- After graduating from physics and chemistry, she worked under Prof. C V Raman, researching the optical properties of ruby and diamond.
- In 1948 she joined the Meteorological department in Pune.
- In 1960, Anna Mani started her work on measuring atmospheric ozone, before the world even understood the ozone layer’s functions.
- Anna Mani designed an instrument - ozonesonde - to measure atmospheric ozone. She also set up a meteorological observatory at the Thumba rocket launching facility.
- She retired as Deputy Director-General of the IMD in 1976.

**Source: Business Standard**

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