

1. Hate Speech

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: SC has made some tough observations regarding the hate speech row in the country.

More on the Topic:

- The Supreme Court bench said that the rise in hate speech and hate crime is “shocking for a country that is religion-neutral” and further noted that this spike is tragic.
- Hate speech cases should be suo motu registered and offenders should be proceeded against in accordance with law.
- SC highlighted specific provisions (**153A, 153B, 295A etc**) of **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** under which hate speech offenders ought to be booked.
- SC held that any hesitation to act as per directions would be viewed as contempt of court.

Hate Speech :

- Hate speech do not have a legal defivition in India.
- **Law Commission (LC), in its 267th Report**, defined hate speech as an incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons defined in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief etc.
- The issue of hate speech has become a recurrent phenomenon especially before the elections.

Factors facilitating hate speeches:

- **Social media platforms** are susceptible to misuse due to their reach and anonymity. Thus, it is very difficult to trace who is posting such content.
- Media’s deliberate and **unintentional negative portrayals of speeches** impact people’s view.
- There is **lack of legal clarity** as to what constitute hate speech and what does not. This has led to the culprit not being prosecuted.

- Moreover, there is also **legal loopholes as hate speech** has been indirectly under 6-7 provisions of Indian Penal Code.

Effects of Hate Speech:

- May to radicalisation of youth and poses a threat to internal security of a nation.
- Hate speech leads to hate crimes as seen during exodus of North Eastern students from Bangalore (2013).
- Hate speech impacts **freedom of speech and expression**.

SC judgements related to hate speech:

- **State Of Karnataka And Anr vs Dr. Praveen Bhai Thogadia, 2004:** SC held that state or the district authorities were well within their rights to prohibit entry so that one does not make speeches, which creates public order issue.
- **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan vs U.O.I. & Ors, 2014:** SC lays down certain guidelines with regard to politicians making inflammatory speeches

Source: Indian Express

2. Financial Action Task Force

Topic: International Relations



In News: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced its decision to remove Pakistan from its “grey list” after four years.

More on the Topic:

- The Financial Action Task Force is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering and to maintain certain interest.
- In 2001, its mandate was expanded to include terrorism financing.
- Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- It has 39 members including India.

Lists under FATF:

- **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
- This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.
- **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
- The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

Source: Hindu

3. Internationalisation of Rupee

Topic: Economy



INTERNATIONALIZING ₹

Pros:	Cons:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ease foreign trade, aid capital flows • Mitigate exchange rate risks • Reduce dependence on FX reserves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complicates monetary policy • Exchange rate stability is challenging • Could bring uncontrolled capital flows

moneycontrol

In News: RBI deputy governor has commented that Internationalisation of rupee has risks but they are unavoidable.

More on the Topic:

- Internationalisation of the rupee is a process that involves increasing use of the local currency in cross-border transactions.
- It involves promoting the rupee for import and export trade and then other current account transactions followed by its use in capital account transactions.
- It also refers to adopting full capital account convertibility (freedom to convert local financial assets into foreign financial assets and vice versa).
- Presently, India allows full current account convertibility.

Internationalization of currency is characterized by the following:

- (a) payments for international transactions can be made in that currency;
- (b) both residents and non-residents can hold financial assets/liabilities denominated in that currency; and
- (c) freedom for non-residents to hold tradable currency balances, even beyond the territory of the issuing country.

Pros of Internationalization of the Currency:

- **Sign of Stable and Mature Markets:** Opening up to a fully convertible currency is a solid sign that a country and its markets are stable and mature enough to handle the free and unrestricted movement of capital, which attracts investments making the economy better.
- **Reduced Foreign Exchange Reserves requirement** due to reduced dependence on Foreign Currency for Trade.
- **Mitigates Currency Volatility risks** for Indian Business with increased bargaining power.

Challenges/Risks Involved:

- The internationalization of the rupee **will limit the country's ability to create a monetary policy specific to its local economic demand.**
- The Indian economy will become **more susceptible to international economic fluctuations.**
- Managed currency has been utilized to protect the economy from damages during the economic crises of 1980 and 2008. It may not be the case anymore.
- Complete internationalization of currency will expand **the risk of hot currency (highly prone to sudden outflows) to capital assets.**

Source: Hindu

4.National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)

Topic: Polity and Governance



In News: NCMC under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary reviewed preparedness for possible cyclonic storm "Sitrang" over Bay of Bengal.

More on the Topic:

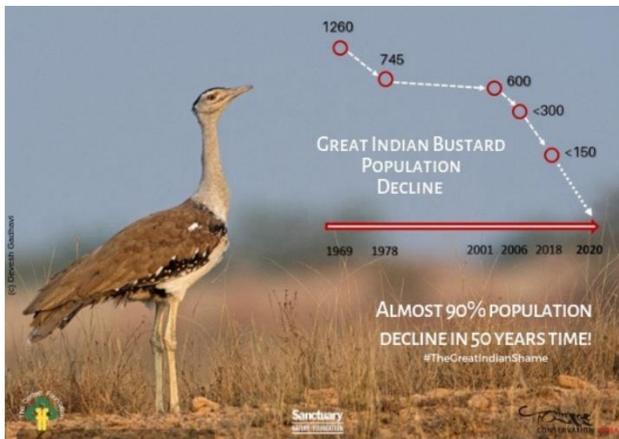
- At the national level, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) are the key committees involved in the top-level decision-making with respect to Disaster Management (DM).
- National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) deals with major crisis which have serious or national ramifications.

- NCMC was set up **in the wake of a natural calamity for effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations.**
- It functions under **Ministry of Home Affairs** and is an integral part of Natural Disaster Management System.
- It is **headed by Cabinet Secretary and Secretaries of all concerned Ministries/Departments** as well as organizations are members of Committee.

Source: Indian Express

5. Great Indian Bustards

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The recent sighting of three Great Indian Bustards (GIBs) deep in Pakistan’s Cholistan desert has given rise to speculation that the endangered birds might have flown across the international border from India’s Desert National Park (DNP).

More on the Topic:

- Environmental activists suggest the birds, **one of India’s most critically endangered species**, may have migrated due to their shrinking habitat in Desert National Park.
- The GIB, which is **the State bird of Rajasthan**, is also considered India’s most critically endangered bird and is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act.
- Its population of about **150 in Rajasthan accounts for 95% of its total world population.**
- **The captive breeding of GIBs was taken up in the DNP** through a project executed by the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India in 2019.
- As many as 24 GIB chicks are in hands now and are being reared in DNP.
- As Rajasthan shares the international border with Pakistan’s Sindh and Punjab provinces, it is suspected that the GIBs might have flown across to the neighbouring country’s desert amid fears that they could become easy prey for the poachers there.

Source: Indian Express

6. Sampurnanand Optical Telescope (SOT)

Topic: Science and Technology



In News: The Prime Minister has announced the development and upgradation of 14,500 schools across India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana.

More on the Topic:

- The telescope at Manora Peak was **established in 1972 when ARIES was known as the UP State Observatory (UPS0).**
- Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) specializes in **observational Astronomy & Astrophysics and Atmospheric Sciences.**
- It has been extensively used for optical observations of comets, occultation by planets and asteroids, star-forming regions and star clusters, variable stars, transients, active galactic nuclei, etc.
- Some of the breakthrough science results contributed by the telescope include the **discovery of new rings around Saturn and the rings of Uranus.**
- The instrumentation and science capabilities of ST have paved the way for setting up National and International facilities by ARIES, such as the 3.6m DOT and the 4 meter International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal.

Source: Business Standard

7. Mana pass

Topic: Geography



In News: Prime Minister has inaugurated connectivity projects worth 3,400 crores in Mana village of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand to Mana pass.

More on the Topic:

- Mana Pass or Chongnyi La is one of the highest vehicle-accessible passes in the world, containing a road constructed for the Indian military by the Border Roads Organisation.
- Mana Pass is the last point between India and China Border. It was an ancient trade route between India and Tibet.
- Mana village located on the banks of River Saraswati and is home to the Bhotias (Mongol tribes.)

Source: Business Standard
