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SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022

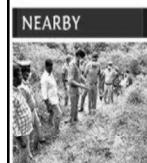
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PATNA



NEARBY

Duo wanted in double murder case shot dead
CHENNAI
 Two history-sheeters, who were allegedly involved in Thursday's double murder at Chengalpattu, were shot dead by the police in "self-defence" on Friday.
 REGION ▶ PAGE 2

Will not spare violators

SC per ANALYSIS under present OBC, EWS quota

Final hearing on validity of ₹8 lakh annual family income limit in March, it says

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) counselling to proceed so as to not "dislocate" medical admissions this year.

The court also upheld the

SC green light

With Friday's order, the Supreme Court has given the go-ahead for the NEET counselling. Key points from the judgment

■ Counselling for NEET-PG 2021 and NEET-UG 2021 can be conducted granting 27% and 10% reservation for OBC and EWS, respectively, in the All India Quota (AIQ) seats



third week of March 2022. Ruling will apply prospectively and for the future

NEET counselling so as not to upset medical admissions for 2021-2022, would be heard finally and decided upon by the Supreme Court in March third week, a Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna noted in its interim order.

After pronouncing its

for travellers who land in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI

All international travellers will have to undergo a seven-day home quarantine on their arrival in India with effect from January 11, according to the government's latest guidelines.

They should do an RT-PCR test on the eighth day of arrival and upload their

NSO estimates FY22 GDP growth at 9.2%
 COVID-19 could impact final numbers

Signalling a rebound

The first advance estimates showed that India's GDP may grow at 9.2% in FY22. The assessment is based on data for the first eight months of FY22



The Hindu News Analysis – 8th January 2022 – Shankar IAS Academy

S. No.	News Articles	Page Number*				
		C	B	D	H	T
1	The baton of forest restoration in the net zero race (Editorial)	8	6	6	8	6
2	'Marital rape already covered under IPC'	-	-	3	-	-
3	Gold bond issue priced at ₹4,786/gm	14	12	12	14	12
4	Sustainable farming creates new livelihood sources	-	-	4	-	-
5	Rampant poaching in Odisha indicates massive network in operation	12	10	10	12	10
6	NSO estimates FY22 GDP growth at 9.2%	1, 10	1, 8	1, 8	1, 10	1, 8
7	Prelims Practice Questions	@ end of the video				
8	Mains Practice Question					

*C – Chennai; B – Bengaluru; D – Delhi; H – Hyderabad; T – Thiruvananthapuram

The baton of forest restoration in the net zero race

For carbon sequestration, India must revisit its policy framework and reverse fading participation of local communities



MOHAN CHANDRA PARGAIEN

of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Continued degradation

Though India is said to have increased its forest cover by 15,000 square kilometres in the last six years, the degradation of existing forests continues. As per the State of Forests Report (1989), the country had 2,57,409 sq.km (7.83% of its geographical area) under the open forest category, having a density of 10% to less than 40%. However, in 30 years (2019) this has been increased to 3,04,499 sq.km (9.26%). This means every year on average, nearly 1.57 lakh hectare of forests was degraded. This degradation highlights the presence of anthropogenic pressures including encroachment, grazing, fire, which our forests are subjected to. Having diverted nearly 1.5 million hectares of forests since 1980 for developmental activities and losing nearly 1.48 million hectares of forests to encroachers coupled with an intricate link between poverty and unemployment, India is witnessing enormous degradation of forests and deforestation. This warrants the participation of people as an essential and effective route to achieve the desired target of carbon sequestration through the restoration of forests.

Terms of engagement

In a historic departure from pursuing commercial objectives to supporting the needs of people in a participatory manner (as envisaged in National Forest Policy, 1988), India made its attempt, in 1990, to engage local communities in a partnership mode while protecting and managing forests and restoring wastelands with the concept of care and share. This concept of joint forest management spelt much hope for States and forest-fringe communities. Later, the concept of forest development agencies was introduced to consolidate the efforts in an autonomous model, which paved the way for fund flow from various other sources to joint forest management committees. The efforts to make this participatory approach operative resulted in the formation of nearly 1.18 lakh joint forest management committees managing over 25 million hectares of forest area. Most of these became active and operative while implementing various projects financed by external agencies such as the World Bank, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan, the Department for International Development (DFID) United Kingdom and the European Union (EU). The similar system of joint management in the

case of national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves which existed in the name of eco-development committees initially proved effective as it could garner the support of these participating communities not only for the protection and development of biodiversity but also in the considerable reduction in man-animal conflicts and the protection of forests from fires and grazing.

However, the completion of the project period and lack of subsequent funding affected their functionality and also the protection of forests due to a lack of support from participating local communities including associated non-governmental organisations.

Except for the National Mission for Green India, in all other centrally sponsored programmes such as Project Tiger, fire management, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) including the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), the lack of priority and policy support to ensure the participation of local communities via the institutions of joint forest management committees slowly made their participation customary. This caused a gradual decline in their effectiveness.

Changed role now

The role of local institutions of gram panchayat or joint forest management committees is now restricted to be a consultative institution instead of being partners in planning and implementation. This indifference and alienation from the participatory planning and implementation of various schemes further affects the harmony between Forest Departments and communities, endangering the protection of forests. This is more relevant while taking up restoration activities including tree planting outside the designated forest area where motivation and encouragement of stakeholders (especially panchayats and urban local bodies) are crucial.

As committed at Glasgow, India will have to 'focus much more on climate change and devise strategies and programmes to achieve the net zero target'. Besides reducing the quantum of emissions in a phased manner – itself full of challenges – the approaches for carbon storage and offsetting through natural sinks such as forests need to be given equal priority.

Replicate Telangana model

To achieve net zero targets there is a need to revisit our existing legal and policy mechanisms, incentivise the local communities appro-

priately and ensure fund flow for restoration interventions, duly providing for the adequate participation of local people in planning and implementation through local institutions. Political priority and appropriate policy interventions (as done recently in Telangana by amending the panchayat and municipal acts for environmental concerns and creating a provision for a Green Fund, or 'Telangana Haritha Nidhi, for tree planting and related activities) need replication in other States. These should be supported by enabling financial and institutional support mechanisms and negotiations with stakeholders to incentivise local communities to boost efforts to conserve and develop forest resources. Though India did not become a signatory of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, the considerations of land tenure and the forest rights of participatory communities with accelerated finances will help aid steps in the race toward net zero. This inclusive approach with political prioritisation will not only help reduce emissions but also help to conserve and increase 'our forest cover' to 'a third of our total area'. It will also protect our once rich and precious biological diversity.

Mohan Chandra Pargaien is Senior IFS officer, Hyderabad, Telangana. The views expressed are personal

Pg: 8 - C, H; Pg: 6 - T, B, D;

Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- General issues on Environmental ecology, Bio-diversity and Climate Change - that do not require subject specialization etc.

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-IV

General Studies- III:Technology, Economic Development, Bio diversity, Environment, Security and Disaster Management

- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Warsaw Framework for REDD+

- Created by the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties - 2013
- To guide activities in the forest sector - reduces emissions from deforestation & forest degradation.
- National Governments reduce human pressure on forests.
- Direct benefit - reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Carbon-cycle**

- ✓ Plants acts as carbon sequesters.
- ✓ Carbon sequesters - capture CO₂ from the atmosphere & stores as carbon.
- ✓ Carbon sequestration Process.
- ✓ Plant degradation - organic decomposition of plants - increases atmospheric CO₂.
- Sustainable management of forests will enhance the forest carbon stocks.
- Provides complete methodological and financing guidance to fulfill the highest level of commitment to climate actions in the forest sector.

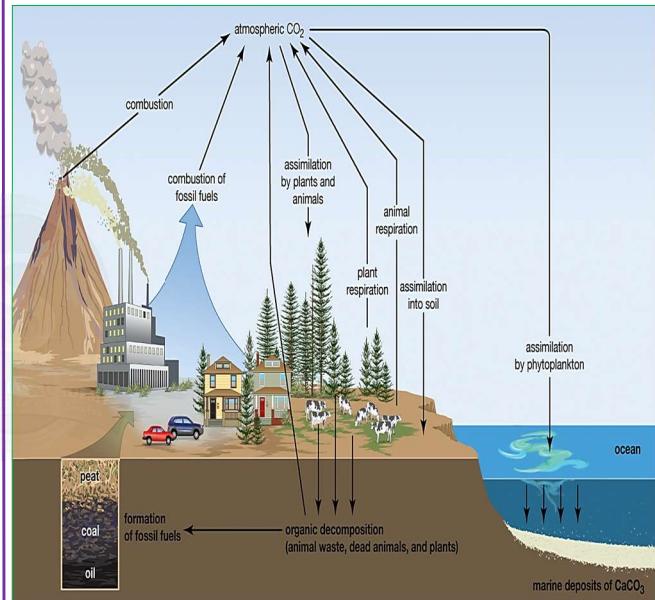


Image source: www.britanica.com

- Only voluntary - international level problem.
- Solution - strict implementation of REDD+ framework.

Need to revisit - India's policy framework

• Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR)

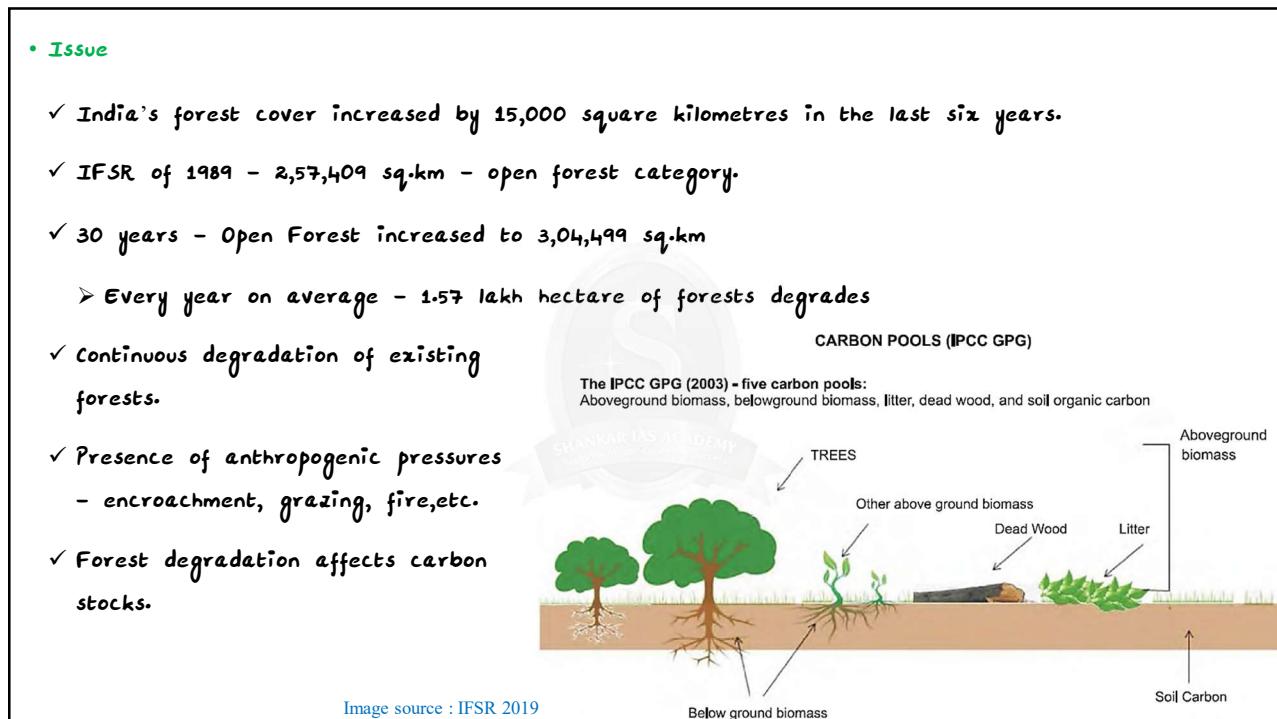
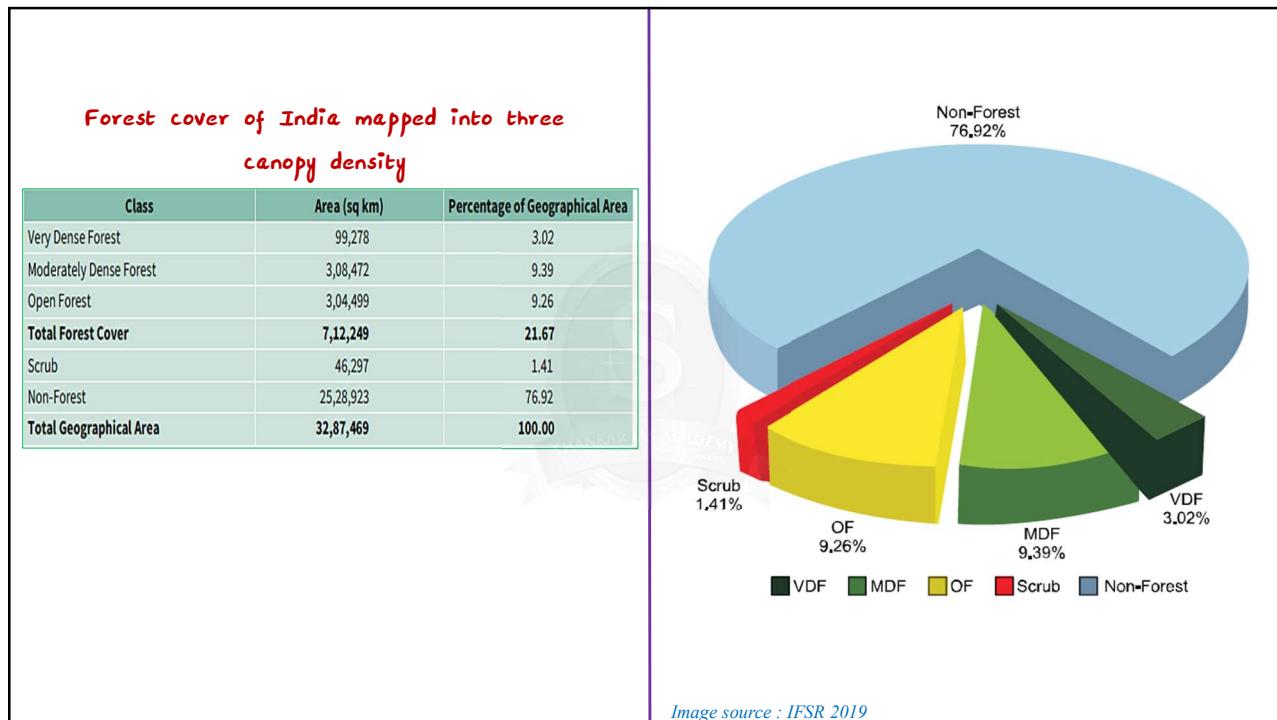
- ✓ Published by the Forest Survey of India, under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.

✓ Classification of forest in ISFR.

Class	Description
Very Dense Forest	All lands with tree canopy density of 70 percent and above.
Moderately Dense Forest	All lands with tree canopy density of 40 percent and more but less than 70 percent.
Open Forest	All lands with tree canopy density of 10 percent and more but less than 40 percent.
Scrub	Forest lands with canopy density less than 10 percent.
Non-forest	Lands not included in any of the above classes. (includes water)



Image source : ISFR 2019



Pools		Description
Living Biomass	Above ground biomass (AGB)	All living biomass above the soil including stems, stumps, branches, bark, seeds and foliage.
	Below ground biomass	All living biomass of live roots. Fine roots of less than 2mm diameter (country specific) are often excluded because these often cannot be distinguished from soil organic matter or litter.
Dead Organic Matter	Dead wood	Includes all non-living woody biomass not contained in the litter, either standing or lying on the ground. Dead wood also includes dead roots and stumps larger than or equal to 10cm in diameter or any other diameter used by the country.
	Litter	Includes all non-living biomass with a diameter less than a minimum diameter chosen by the country (for FSI 5 cm), lying dead, in various states of decomposition above the mineral or organic soil.
Soil	Soil organic matter	Includes organic carbon in mineral and organic soils (including peat) to a specific depth chosen by the country (for FSI 30 cm) and applied consistently through the time series.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest Policy (1988) <p>✓ Local communities engaged with the concept of care and share.</p> <p>✓ People participate in protecting, managing forests and restoring wastelands.</p> <p>✓ Concept of forest development agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 1.18 lakh joint forest management committees formed - manages over 25 million hectares of forest area. ➢ Paved the way for fund flow from various other sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Committees implements various projects financed by external agencies such as the World Bank, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan, the Department for International Development (DFID) United Kingdom and the European Union (EU). ✓ Social forestry programme - afforestation programme in the areas outside the Govt Control Forest areas - Reserved Forests, Protected Forests, Wild-life Sanctuaries & National Parks. ✓ Eco-development committees protect & develop biodiversity by restricting people. ✓ Local institutions - gram panchayat restricted to be a consultative institution.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instead of being partners in planning and implementation. ✓ Affects the harmony between Forest Departments and communities. ✓ Endangers the protection of forests. <p>Solution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the social forestry programmes – increase the substantially of the forest/tree cover in the country, by the concept of Joint Forest Management right from the inception of the Social Forestry Circle. • Local communities must be appropriately incentivised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the fund flow for restoration activities. • Ensure adequate participation of local people in planning & implementation through local institutions. • Telangana Government ✓ Amended the panchayat and municipal acts for environmental concerns. ✓ Created a provision for a Green Fund, or Telangana Haritha Nidhi for tree planting and related activities. ✓ Supported by enabling financial and institutional support mechanisms
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Negotiations with stakeholders to incentivise local communities. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is not a signatory of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. • Important to encourage community participation along with accelerated financial aid. 	
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Practice Question – Prelims

Q. In the context of Classification of Forest land according to the Indian State of Forest Report (IFSR), which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Class of Forest	Density(D)
1. Very Dense Forest –	70% or more
2. Open Forest –	10% >D<40%
3. Non-Forest –	less than 10%

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Mains**GS – III**

Q. National Policies & mechanism relating to forest Conservation in India needs to be revisited . Comment.

(250 Words, 15 Marks)

'Marital rape already covered under IPC'

Pleas seek to cancel exception granted

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government informed the High Court on Friday that marital rape is already covered as a crime of cruelty under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). It also said that the courts have no power to legislate any new offence.

"Marital rape is a crime of cruelty in India. Married women and unmarried women are different under every single law," government lawyer Nandita Rao told the HC which is hearing a batch of petitions seeking criminalisation of marital rape.

Ms. Rao, additionally, said even in the case of one of the petitioners, who claimed to be a victim of repeated marital rape, the FIR stood registered for an offence under Section 498A of the IPC, which deals with cruelty to a married woman by her husband or his relatives.

In India, marital rape is not defined in any statute or law. The High Court was

hearing the petitions by NGOs RIT Foundation, All India Democratic Women's Association, and a man and a woman seeking to strike down the exception granted to husbands under the Indian rape law.

The exception says sexual intercourse by a man with his wife aged 15 years or above is not rape even if it is without her consent. In October 2017, the Supreme Court increased it to 18 years.

During the hearing, senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing the petitioner woman, argued that courts all over the world have recognised marital rape as an offence.

"Marital rape is the biggest form of sexual violence which happens in the confines of our homes. How many times does rape take place in the institution of marriage and is never reported? This figure is not reported or analysed," he said.

The High Court will hear the case again on January 10.

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Part A—Preliminary Examination

Paper I - (200 marks)

- Current events of national and international importance.
- Indian Polity and Governance - Constitution, Political System, Panchayati Raj, Public Policy, Rights Issues, etc

Part B—Main Examination

PAPER-II

General Studies-I : Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

- Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

PAPER-III

General Studies - II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

- Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Marital rape

- Rape by the victim's spouse.
- Intimate partner violence - often, wife is the victim and husband is the perpetrator.
- **Rape** - sexual intercourse or sexual penetration with the lack of consent (essential ingredient)
- **Consent** - unequivocal voluntary agreement when the woman by words, gestures or any form of verbal or non-verbal communication, communicates willingness to participate in the specific sexual act.
- ✓ Consent in the case of minors - does not exist or immaterial.

✓ Presumed consent - in case of marriage due to patriarchy.

- Renders marital rape as antithetical.
- Results in forced sexual assault by husband.
- Forgets that sexual intercourse should be an act of love based on respect, equality, with consent and care.
- Use of coercion, verbal threats or physical violence by husbands.
- Impact of marital rape on women - physical injury, PTSD, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and suicidality.

INDIAN PENAL CODE

375. Rape.—A man is said to commit "rape" if he—

- (a) penetrates his penis, to any extent, into the vagina, mouth, urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or
- (b) inserts, to any extent, any object or a part of the body, not being the penis, into the vagina, the urethra or anus of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or
- (c) manipulates any part of the body of a woman so as to cause penetration into the vagina, urethra, anus or any part of body of such woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person; or
- (d) applies his mouth to the vagina, anus, urethra of a woman or makes her to do so with him or any other person,
under the circumstances falling under any of the following seven descriptions:—
First.—Against her will.
Secondly.—Without her consent.
Thirdly.—With her consent, when her consent has been obtained by putting her or any person in whom she is interested, in fear of death or of hurt.
Fourthly.—With her consent, when the man knows that he is not her husband and that her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married.
Fifthly.—With her consent when, at the time of giving such consent, by reason of unsoundness of mind or intoxication or the administration by him personally or through another of any stupefying or unwholesome substance, she is unable to understand the nature and consequences of that to which she gives consent.

INDIAN PENAL CODE

375. Rape.—A man is said to commit "rape" if he—

Sixthly.—With or without her consent, when she is under eighteen years of age.

Seventhly.—When she is unable to communicate consent.

Exception 1.—A medical procedure or intervention shall not constitute rape.

Exception 2.—Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape.

Partial criminalisation of marital rape

- Exception clause - if the wife is above 15 years of age - it will not amount to rape.
- ✓ Protects married female partners under 15 years of age.
- ✓ Punishment - 10 years imprisonment, which may extended to life, with/without fine.

• Section 376B - marital rape committed by separated husband on account of judicial separation or otherwise.

✓ Punishment - 2 to 7 years imprisonment, with/without fine.

**Suggestions of Justice J.S. Verma
committee report, 2012**

- Report of the Committee on Amendments to Criminal Law.
- Advocated criminalisation of marital rape.
- Recommendation - deletion of exception clause.

Practice Question – Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian Penal Code:

1. Sexual intercourse or sexual acts without consent by a man with his own wife is not rape.
2. The offence of rape is defined under Section 375, IPC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Gold bond issue priced at ₹4,786/gm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at ₹4,786 per gram, the RBI said on Friday.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22 - Series IX will be open for subscription for the period January 10-14, 2022.

The nominal value of the bond "works out to ₹4,786 per gram of gold", the RBI said in a statement.

The Government of India has decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram less than the nominal value to investors applying online and the payment made through digital mode.

Pg: 14 – C, H;

Pg: 12 – T, B, D;



Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- Launched by Govt in November 2015, under Gold Monetisation Scheme.
- Government securities denominated in grams of gold.
- Substitutes for holding physical gold
- Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.
- Issued by Reserve Bank of India
- Maturity - period of 8 years with exit option in 5th, 6th and 7th year



Government Of India

<p>Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quantity of gold for which the investor pays is protected. Offers a superior alternative to holding gold in physical form. The risks and costs of storage are eliminated. Assured of the market value of gold at the time of maturity and periodical interest. Free from issues like making charges and purity in the case of gold in jewellery form. Bonds are held in the books of the RBI or in demat form eliminating risk of loss of scrip. 	<p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons resident in India as defined under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. Individuals, HUFs, trusts, universities and charitable institutions. <p>Limit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued in denominations of one gram of gold and in multiples. Minimum investment - one gram. Maximum limit of subscription of 4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg for trusts and similar entities notified by the government.
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<p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maturity period Loss of capital Value of the bond is closely connected to the price of gold on the international markets, the investment in SGB may result in a capital loss. 	<p>Practice Question – Prelims</p> <p>Q. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Gold bonds are issued by the Government of India. The maximum limit for individuals investing in the bond is 2kg. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 only 2 only Both 1 and 2 Neither 1 nor 2
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Sustainable farming creates new livelihood sources

Gehlot's economic advisory team studies model in Banswara for replication

MOHAMMED IQBAL

JAIPUR

A sustainable natural farming system adopted in southern Rajasthan's Banswara district, which has created new livelihood sources and brought food security to indigenous tribal communities, has impressed the Chief Minister's Economic Transformation Advisory Council. The model is being considered for replication elsewhere in the State.

A 20-member team of the Council visited Banswara district's Amlipara village earlier this week to study the



Members of the Economic Transformation Advisory Council visiting Amlipara village. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

techniques and innovations which have enabled the farmers to meet their daily food necessities by growing fruits and vegetables at a low cost. The integrated system has also reduced the tribals'

dependence on market and improved nutritional status of the local population.

The team members, drawn mostly from the State government's Agriculture and Horticulture Depart-

ments, interacted with the farmers to understand their vision as well as the issues being faced by them. They especially evinced interest in the functioning of the community-managed seed system, which has facilitated diversification of crops.

The model entails adoption of organic farming, manure, medicines and pesticides and establishment of vermicompost units at agricultural fields. The locally prepared organic manure is used for growing maize, wheat, urad and other crops.

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Sustainable Farming

- Intended to protect the environment, expand the Earth's natural resource base, and maintain and improve soil fertility.



Source: <https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/>

Advantages

• Conservation Of Environment

- ✓ Restore the quality of the land as well as other natural resources such as water and air.
- ✓ Reduce the reliance on nonrenewable energy, reduce chemical use and save scarce resources.

• Public Health Safety

- ✓ Avoids hazardous pesticides and fertilizers.
- ✓ Protect humans from exposure to pathogens, toxins, and other hazardous pollutants.

- Prevents Air Pollution

- ✓ Affect air quality by smoke from agricultural burning; dust from tillage, traffic and harvest; pesticide drift from spraying; and nitrous oxide emissions from the use of nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ Improve air quality by incorporating crop residue into the soil, using appropriate levels of tillage, and planting windbreaks, cover crops or strips of native perennial grasses to reduce dust.



Source: <https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/>

- Prevents Soil Erosion

- ✓ Reducing or eliminating tillage, managing irrigation to reduce runoff, and keeping the soil covered with plants or mulch.

- Social Equality

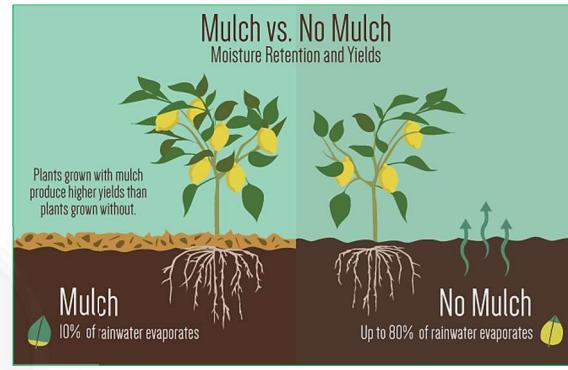
- ✓ Work in humane and fair working conditions, which include a safe work environment, food, and adequate living conditions.

- Saves energy for future

- Cost Reduction

- Sustainable livestock management

- Economic benefits



Source: <https://www.fix.com/>



Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to National mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), consider the following statements:

1. NMSA is one of the eight missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change.
2. Soil Health Management SHM is one of the components of NMSA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Rampant poaching in Odisha indicates massive network in operation

STF alone has seized 29 leopard skins in two years

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHURANESWAR

The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police's Crime Branch has seized four leopard skins in the past ten days, and 25 since 2020. The seizures made by the STF alone indicate multiple big networks of wildlife laws offenders may be operating in the State's forests.



Leopards are poached for their skin and claws.

bers poached, would be significantly higher. In October 2021, the Odisha Forest and Environment Department confiscated nine leopard skins in one case in Kalahandi.

According to the STF, a special drive against wildlife criminals and poachers was launched in 2020. Apart from 25 leopard skins, the agency has seized 13 elephant tusks, seven deer-skins, nine live pangolins, more than 16 kg of pangolin scales, and arrested 55 per-

sons on charges of crimes against wildlife.

"On the basis of reliable information, an STF team conducted a search with the help of Deogarh forest officials on NH 49 near Telibani in Deogarh district on January 6, as a result of which one wildlife offender, identified as Madan Kumar Jayapura, was apprehended. During the search, one leopard skin, one elephant tusk and 1.770 kg pangolin scales and other incriminating articles were recovered from his pos-

session," the agency said. On December 29, one leopard skin was recovered from an offender. On January 5, two criminals were arrested and two leopard skins and other incriminating articles recovered from their possession.

The leopard skins were sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for chemical examination.

"Of late, both the STF and the Forest Department has been working in a coordinated manner and on a mission mode. The result is evident.

The frequent seizures of leopard skins will have an impact on criminals in the future," said Jai Narayan Pankaj, Deputy Inspector General of Police, STF.

But activists allege that the majority of wildlife crimes involving the poaching of leopards and elephants have gone undetected in the past few years. Biswajit Mohanty, secretary, Wildlife Society of Odisha, an environmental pressure group, said, "The State has become a graveyard of wild animals. The

leopard skins seized in last couple of years are just the tip of the iceberg. Criminals are operating with impunity."

"Though there have been seizures and criminals have been caught red-handed, rarely have the cases ended in a conviction. Probably one conviction has been achieved in the past decade," Mr. Mohanty said, adding that law enforcement agencies should make "water-tight cases" to instil fear in the minds of wildlife criminals.

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Pg: 10 – T, B, D;

Poaching

- Illegal trafficking and killing of wildlife.
- Sold as trophies or "folk medicines" and as pets or houseplants.



Status In India

- India has an immense amount of biodiversity
 - hotspot for poaching



- Illegal wildlife trafficking - organized and sophisticated as the wealth and technology in the trade have grown.
- History - dates back to the 16th century.
- Mughal emperor Jalal-ud-Din Muhammad Akbar.
- Perceived as a royal activity and was a sign of power and wealth.
- Beliefs - Tiger necklaces bring the wearer power and good-luck.
- Certain animal bones or horn - magical medicinal properties that cure a variety of diseases.



Main species that are poached

- Big cats - tigers, leopards, and snow leopards - for their skin and bones.



- **Elephants** - Ivory and elephant tail hair are the most commonly bought elephant products.
- ✓ For consumers, they are a symbol of wealth and power.



- **Rhinos** - myths surrounding the medical properties of Rhino horns that it cures cancer, relieve hangovers, and enhance male virility



- **Turtles and tortoises** - poached for their meat, carapace and as pets.



- Pangolins – every single part of the animal is in high demand – from its scales to its blood.



Practice Question – Prelims

Q. With reference to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 consider the following statements:

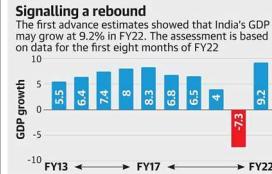
1. The act involves the protection and regulation of animals only and it does not include the regulation of plants.
2. Pangolin is protected under Schedule I of the Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

NSO estimates FY22 GDP growth at 9.2%

COVID-19 could impact final numbers



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi: India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 9.2% in the current financial year following last fiscal's 7.3% contraction, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in its first advance estimates of economic output released on Friday, amid concerns over the likely impact of a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NSO, however, made clear that these were "early projections" that did not factor in actual performance of various indicators as well as measures that may be taken to contain the spread of the pandemic.

"GDP at current prices (CPI) for the year 2021-22 is estimated at ₹135.54 lakh crore, as against the provisional estimate of GDP for the year 2020-21 of ₹135.13 lakh crore," the NSO said, adding that growth in real

GDP is pegged at 9.2%. "Real GVA at Current Prices is estimated at ₹135.22 lakh crore in 2021-22, as against ₹124.53 lakh crore in 2020-21, showing a growth of 8.6%," it added.

"The implicit GDP growth of 5.6% for H2 FY2022 built in by the NSO may not fully factor in the admittedly evolving impact of Omicron," said Aditi Rao, chief economist at ICRA Ltd. "Our sense is that after a 6.0-6.5% rise in Q3 FY2022, the GDP expansion is set to slip below 5% in the ongoing quarter," she added.

The NSO's GVA estimates show the mining sector outpacing others with growth of 14.3% following last year's 1.3% contraction, followed by manufacturing which is seen expanding by 12.5% after shrinking 7.2% in the previous 12-month period.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

NSO estimates FY22 GDP growth at 9.2%

Agriculture sector is estimated to grow at 3.9% in FY22 (3.6%). The electricity, water supply and other utility services category is estimated to grow at 8.5% (1.9%), while construction is expected to grow 10.7% (-8.6%) and trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting services are projected to grow at 11.9% against a sharp contraction of 18.2% last year.

"Compared to the pre-COVID performance of FY2020, the advance estimates project an anaemic rise of 1.3% and 1.9%, respectively, for GDP and GVA in FY2022," Ms. Nayar said. "Most conspicuous amongst the disaggregated data is the weak performance of private final consumption expenditure and trade, hotel, transport,

communication etc., which are pegged to trail their FY2020 levels by 2.9% and a considerable 8.5%, respectively, underscoring the lingering impact of COVID-19 on the Indian economy," she added.

"These estimates have utilised available information up to the months ranging from September to December 2021," said D.K. Srivastava, chief policy advisor, EY India.

"As such, the likely adverse impact of COVID's third wave on the economy may not have been fully incorporated in these estimates. It is possible that another 20 basis points of growth may be shaved off from 2021-22 growth by the time the second advance estimates become available," he added.

Pgs: 1, 10 – C, H;

Pgs: 1, 8 – T, B, D;

National Statistics Office (NSO)

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has two wings.
 - ✓ Statistics wing
 - ✓ Programme Implementation wing
- Statistics Wing - National Statistics Office (NSO) in 2019.
- NSO = Central Statistics Office + National Sample Survey Office
- CSO - attached Office & NSSO - subordinate Office under the control of Ministry of S&PI.

Formation of NSO

- ✓ 2019
- ✓ Due to controversies Government merged CSO & NSSO.
- ✓ New merged entity - National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ✓ NSO serves as executive wing of the Government in the field of statistics.
- ✓ Sole functionary is the Chief Statistician of India (CSI) & Secretary of MOSPI.
- ✓ Extra responsibility - Administrative, coordination and planning activities of MOSPI.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Statistical Office (CSO) ✓ Assigned to bring about coordination of statistical activities among various statistical agencies in the Central Government and of Statistical Bureaus of State Governments. • National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) ✓ Assigned to collect data on varied Socio-Economic subjects through nation-wide sample surveys to create and update data base. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Data base can be used in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policy formulation ➤ Programme implementation ➤ Programme evaluation ➤ Research & public debate and ➤ Economic & administrative decisions for national development. ✓ NSSO functions under the overall guidance of the NSC (National Statistical Commission). • National Statistical Office (NSO) headed by the Chief Statistician of India & secretary of MOSPI. • Has appropriate autonomy and independence for producing Official Statistics.
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<p>NSO estimations – FY2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO's estimated GDP marginally lower than RBI's projection - 9.5%. • Compared to FY2020 – rise of 1.3% in GDP & 1.9% in GVA. • Utilized information from September to December 2021. • Impact of COVID's third wave – expecting fall of 20 bps from 2021-22 growth. • Will be reflected in the second advance NSO estimates. 	<p>Practice Question – Prelims</p> <p>Q. With reference to National Statistics Office (NSO):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is under the Ministry of Economic Affairs. 2. It is formed by the merger of CSO & NSSO. 3. It has appropriate autonomy and independence for producing Official Statistics. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 1 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) All the above
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PRACTICE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

Practice Question – Prelims

Q1. With reference to National mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), consider the following statements:

1. NMSA is one of the eight missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change.
2. Soil Health Management SHM is one of the components of NMSA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q2. With reference to Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 consider the following statements:

1. The act involves the protection and regulation of animals only and it does not include the regulation of plants.
2. Pangolin is protected under Schedule I of the Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian Penal Code:

1. Sexual intercourse or sexual acts without consent by a man with his own wife is not rape.
2. The offence of rape is defined under Section 375, IPC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q4. With reference to Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme consider the following statements:

1. The Gold bonds are issued by the Government of India.
2. The maximum limit for individuals investing in the bond is 2kg.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Practice Question – Prelims

Q5. In the context of Classification of Forest land according to the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR), which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Class of Forest	Density(D)
1. Very Dense Forest –	70% or more
2. Open Forest –	$10\% > D < 40\%$
3. Non-Forest –	less than 10%

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Practice Question – Prelims

Q6. With reference to National Statistics Office (NSO):

1. It is under the Ministry of Finance.
2. It is formed by the merger of CSO & NSSO.
3. It has appropriate autonomy and independence for producing Official Statistics.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) All the above

Practice Question – Mains**GS – III**

Q. National Policies & mechanism relating to forest Conservation in India needs to be revisited . Comment.

(250 Words, 15 Marks)

Practice Prelims Question – Answers

- Q1. Option (c)**
- Q2. Option (b)**
- Q3. Option (b)**
- Q4. Option (d)**
- Q5. Option (c)**
- Q6. Option (c)**