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Krishna Pradeep's 21st Century IAS , Hyderabad

1. Cabinet nod for Bill making instant triple talaq a crime
2. NGT once again bans plastic use in Haridwar, Rishikesh to save Ganga
3. 'India should secure infrastructure against cyberthreats'
4. Ken Betwa project may see delay, cost escalation
5. SC dismisses Teesta's plea on frozen accounts
6. Net services remain suspended in Udaipur
7. Changed priorities
8. Feed the cure
9. WTO meet ends without consensus
10. A closer look at the lines

1. Cabinet nod for Bill making instant triple talaq a crime

Context: The Union Cabinet approved a Bill that makes instant triple talaq, or talaq-e-biddat, a criminal offence. Under the Bill, a Muslim man resorting to instant talaq can be jailed for up to three years.

What is Triple Talaq?

Triple talaq is a practice mainly prevalent among India's Muslim community following the Hanafi Islamic school of law.

Under the practice, a Muslim man can divorce his wife by simply uttering "talaq" three times but women cannot pronounce triple talaq and are required to move a court for getting divorce under the Sharia Act, 1937.


Taking shape

What the inter-ministerial draft law on triple talaq proposes

- Instant triple talaq will be illegal and void, and will attract a prison term of 3 years for the husband
- The husband can also be fined and the quantum of fine would

be decided by the magistrate hearing the case


- The proposed law would only be applicable on instant triple talaq, and gives power to the victim to approach a magistrate seeking allowance for herself and her minor children

 The Supreme Court had banned triple talaq in the light of Koran.

Hence, any new law should be prepared in the light of Koran. If it is not so, then no Muslim woman will accept it

SHAISTA AMBER, AIMWPLB president



 When there is no 3 year imprisonment for those caught taking bribe, why a 3 year jail in triple talaq issue?

ASADUDDIN OWAIISI, AIMIM chief and MP



2. NGT once again bans plastic use in Haridwar, Rishikesh to save Ganga

Context: NGT chairperson Swatanter Kumar banned the sale, manufacture and storage of all such plastic items, till Uttarkashi. The green panel specified that the ban would be applicable to towns in Uttarakhand, along river Ganga and its tributaries.

Tribunal Judgement: It said a fine of Rs. 5,000 would be imposed on those violating the order. Action would be taken against erring officials as well.

Complete prohibition:

1. “There shall be complete prohibition of use of plastic in the entire city of Haridwar and Rishikesh and particularly on the banks and flood plain of river Ganga.
2. Plastic will not be used for any purpose whatsoever, that is serving food, commodities, packaging or even carrying the plastic in that area.”

Further, the Tribunal had also prohibited the authorities from throwing municipal waste, construction and demolition waste into Ganga and its tributaries.

3. 'India should secure infrastructure against cyberthreats'

Context: Kaspersky Labs founder says the country is one of the most important from a cybersecurity aspect because of its population and economy. India needs to worry about terror groups attacking critical infrastructure such as power plants, telecom and banking systems.

Reasons to secure infrastructure:

1. large population,
2. Internet literacy,
3. growing economy.

International experience

Bangladesh Central bank cyberheist, which nearly robbed the country of a billion dollars, which you had traced to the North Korea-based cybercriminal Lazarus group. So, India has to take care of critical infra

What should Indian companies and the government be most worried about?

1. securing critical infrastructure is most important: power plants, power grids, water supplies and transportation
2. Indians is facing more hacking especially financial attacks.

Cyber threats are all around world. so, all countries should now agree to an international convention against state-sponsored cyberhacking. Organisations like the UN, BRICS, EU, and global powers must recognise that by damaging each other's cyberspace, all states are making themselves vulnerable.

4. Ken Betwa project may see delay, cost escalation

Context: The Ken Betwa river interlinking project may yet see delays and a price escalation even as the two States involved, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, have reportedly resolved differences over the execution of the project.

Advantages of Project:

It will transfer surplus water from the Uttar Pradesh section of the Ken to the Betwa in Madhya Pradesh are critical to irrigate nearly 7,00,000 hectares in drought-ravaged Bundelkhand.

Argument of environmentalist:

Environmentalists say that such a dam will submerge at least 4,000 hectares of Madhya Pradesh's Panna tiger reserve, whose tigers were almost lost to poaching in 2009 and have only recently been partially replenished



5. SC dismisses Teesta's plea on frozen accounts

Context: The Supreme Court rejected a plea by activist Teesta Setalvad and others for the defreezing of nine bank accounts of her, husband Javed Anand and two NGOs.

NGOs are legally constituted organizations which operate independently from Government and are generally considered to be nonstate, nonprofit oriented groups who pursue purposes of public interest.

Registration of NGOs in under The societies Registration Act,1860. Indian Trusts Act, 1882,Companies Act, 2013.

Who regulate NGOs?

There are laws for the regulation of the functioning of NGOs in India. Foreign contribution regulation Act(FCRA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act(FEMA Act) are among the most important laws connected with NGOs.

Issues with the functioning of NGOs:

1. Misappropriation of funds:
2. Nonaccountable, nontransparent undemocratic functioning:
3. Money Laundering

Way ahead

1. A regulatory mechanism to keep a watch on the financial activities of NGOs and voluntary organizations is the need of the hour.
2. General Financial Rules, 2005 have mandated a regulatory mechanism for the NGOs and a comprehensive law in line with these rules should be framed in no time.

6. Net services remain suspended in Udaipur

Context: Mobile Internet services in Udaipur were suspended for another 24 hours as a precautionary measure amid apprehensions of communal tension.

The services were suspended for 24 hours after some groups announced to take out processions in support of Shambhu Lal Raigar, who is in custody for hacking a Muslim migrant labourer to death, burning the body and filming the barbaric act in Rajsamand.

As a preventive measure, mobile Internet services were further suspended for 24 hours in Udaipur. Section 144 of the CrPC remains imposed,” SP Udaipur Rajendra Prasad said.

7. Changed priorities

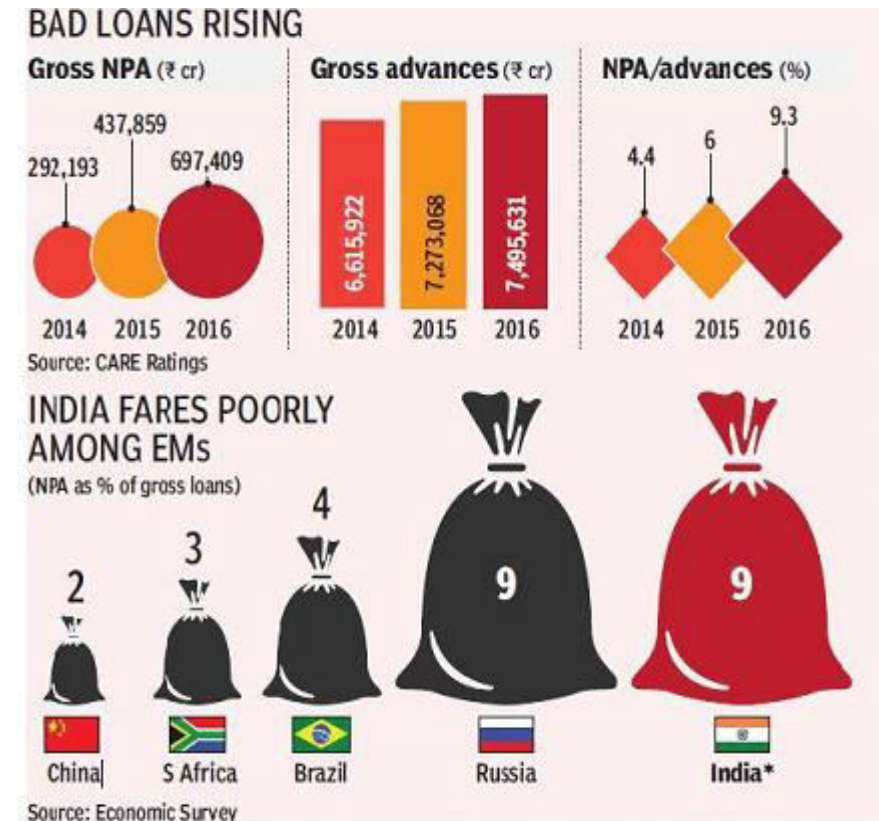
Context: The government's move will shift attention away from recovery of bad loans to selling assets of defaulting corporates. It is ironical that while the 2017 Forbes India List says that the combined net worth of India's 100 wealthiest stood at a whopping \$479 billion, top corporate borrower groups in India are unable to repay loans and make timely interest payments.

What is a Non-Performing Asset (NPA)?

A debt is classified as nonperforming when loan payments have not been made for a period of 90 days.

What are the various steps taken to tackle NPAs?

1. SARFAESI Act – 2002
2. Mission Indradhanush – 2015
3. Strategic debt restructuring (SDR) – 2015
4. Insolvency and Bankruptcy code Act-2016



An ordinance of November 23 amending the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

1. Many are of the view that if the errant promoter is disqualified from the bidding process it will lead to further losses for banks.
2. the ordinance is not likely to either eliminate errant promoters or hugely escalate bank losses apart from the deep haircuts already suffered.
3. It merely signals the government's intent to shift attention away from recovery of bad loans to selling the assets of defaulting corporates.

The May 2017 ordinance directed banks to accept deep haircuts on their non-performing loans. However, there was no explicit direction from the government as the majority owner of public sector banks to recall the outstanding loans and recover as much as possible against the personal guarantees of promoters.

8. Feed the cure

Context: The Central TB Division has said the government would hand over a sum of Rs. 500 a month to each of India's 35 lakh diagnosed TB patients in order to strengthen the fight against the disease. The funds are intended to offset the loss of wages due to TB, and to help with travel and nutrition. Yet, much more needs to be done to protect TB patients from the effects of malnutrition, which has a complicated relationship with TB.

What is the main cause of TB?

1. Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria that spread from person to person through microscopic droplets released into the air.
2. The evidence linking low body mass index and nutritional deficiencies with higher rates of disease has piled up.
3. malnutrition.

India's Efforts Against TB:

1. TB Mission 2020
2. National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination: The plan aims to achieve a 100% case detection by 2020 and complete elimination of the disease by 2025.
3. to double the rations under the public distribution system to families of TB patients, so that they are less likely to contract the disease.

9. WTO meet ends without consensus

Context: World Trade Organisation's highest decision-making body in this 'city of fair winds' ended becalmed with the WTO's 164 members unable to reach a consensus on substantive issues such as the food security right of developing countries and the centrality of development in multilateral trade negotiations.

Why talks fail?

1. US blocked a permanent solution on government stockholding for food security purposes,
2. India toughened its stand on new issues including e-commerce and investment facilitation.
3. Member states did agree to secure a deal on elimination of fisheries subsidies by the next ministerial in December 2019. Reluctance on the part of China and India to make immediate commitments thwarted a deal on fisheries at the Buenos Aires meet.
4. As the draft lacked emphasis on issues close to India's concern such as multilateralism, Doha Development Agenda, special and differential treatment of developing countries, India refused to budge
5. Due to divergences among members, and a few members not supporting acknowledgement and reiteration of key underlying principles guiding the WTO and various agreed mandates, ministers could not arrive at an agreed ministerial declaration
6. introduce new issues into the WTO agenda such as e-commerce, investment facilitation, MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) and gender equality.

Way forward

1. WTO's commitment to deliver a permanent solution on government procurement for food security purposes and said work will continue post MC11 to deliver on that promise.

Though WTO is driven by consensus and even a plurilateral agreement needs approval of all members, analysts see the formation of these groups as an attempt to steer WTO away from its focus on multilateralism.

10. A closer look at the lines

Context: China's remarks on bilateral ties and the border issue lay the initiative for corrective measures at India's door. ahead of the 20th round of the now moribund talks between the Special Representatives of India and China entrusted with finding an early settlement of the border question

That both countries needed to make the "correct choice regarding the future direction of bilateral relations". That the results of the efforts made for "overall development momentum were unsatisfactory". The most important thing to do was (emphasis added) "genuine cultivation of mutual trust".

"some individual issues will keep fermenting and spilling over, thus eroding the overall situation of bilateral relations".

Working Mechanism for Consultation and Co-ordination on India China Border Affairs, (WMCC) which concluded with a positive spin having been imparted to them as having been "constructive and forward looking", but without firm dates for the next meeting.

What a slide it has been.

"Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the Boundary Question".

- Clarity on the border
- In the meanwhile, some of the expectations had rewritten themselves. The Joint Working Group — that had been clarifying the border areas with a view to leading up to exchange of maps on a mutually agreed scale on where the Line of Actual Control (LAC) lay in each others' perception — had run itself into the ground.
- The fond hope was of an “LAC plus” solution. That changed as well. As did the pious intention to earnestly look for an early solution.
- what is being expanded instead are the divergences: whether it is China's opposition to India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers Group, or its steadfast support to Pakistan's molycoddling of terrorist groups that are inimical to India, or its pointed message to encourage Bhutan to settle its boundary dispute with China in a way that would make the Indian Army's presence in Doklam eventually redundant.
- It is time New Delhi put more effort into strengthening India's presence in those areas where we are present, where we consider to be them as our border, and live with it rather than to wait for Beijing to alter reality again