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Category: **POLITY**

1. [Aadhaar: 9-judge Bench to consider whether privacy is a basic right](#)

 **We have to first determine whether right to privacy is a fundamental right or not before going into the issue [on the constitutionality of the Aadhaar scheme]**

**CHIEF JUSTICE
J.S. KHEHAR**



 **In a Republic founded on a written Constitution, it is difficult to accept there is no fundamental right to privacy... There is a battery of judgments saying privacy is a fundamental right. We have to give serious thought to this question**

**JUSTICE J. CHELAMESWAR
Supreme Court judge**



In news:

- A **nine-judge Bench** of the Supreme Court will hear the question **whether privacy is a fundamental human right and is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.**
- **Petitioner's contention:**
 - The Aadhaar scheme, is a violation of the citizens' **right to privacy**.
 - The petitioners have argued that right to privacy is part of **Article 21**, the right to life, and interspersed in

Article 19 , though not explicitly stated in the Constitution.

- **Supreme Court verdicts on right to privacy:**

1. P. Sharma case-1954
2. the Kharak Singh case verdict of 1962

Both judgments had concluded that privacy was not a fundamental or "guaranteed" right.

- **The nine-judge Bench to decide:** once and for all whether privacy is negotiable or not.

2. [State legislatures have "exclusive" powers to enact laws on cattle protection: Govt](#)

In news:

- State legislatures have "exclusive" powers to enact laws for **preservation of cattle** , the government told the Rajya Sabha .
- Rajasthan High Court vide order dated 31.5.2017 advised that cow should be declared a national animal and directed the state government of Rajasthan to take steps for preservation and conservation of cows and for declaring cow as a national animal.

Key Fact: Under the distribution of legislative powers between Union of India and states under article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislature of the states have exclusive powers to legislate.

Category: *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

1. [India set to extradite Bangladeshi national to Britain](#)

In news:

- India is all set to extradite a Bangladeshi national, **Mohammad Abdul Shakur** , to the U.K., where he is accused of murdering his wife and children ten years ago.
- **Positive step:** This is being seen as another signal of **increasing cooperation** between the two nations on sensitive, and potentially thorny issues in the home affairs arena.

2. [US asks countries in East and South China Sea to exercise restraint](#)

News

- The Pentagon has asked countries in East and South China Sea to exercise restraint and avoid indulging in provocative behaviour
- It asked not do things that are provocative and to respect each other's sovereignty in their operations

Background

- This was due to Chinese H-6 bombers flying over the **Bashi Channel** and the **Miyako Strait** several times over the past week
- Japan scrambled fighters in response
- Chinese Defense Ministry has told Japan that it should get used to it

Protest by China

- China had protested when a US Air Force Bomber flew over the South China Sea before G-20 summit in Hamburg, Germany

Category: *INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS*

1. [An uphill fight](#)

Context

- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's plan to eliminate malaria by 2027.
- It aims to eradicate the mosquito-borne disease from India **three years ahead of the global deadline** set by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

New plan approach

- It is the country's first time-bound malaria elimination programme since the National Malaria Eradication Programme was aborted in the late 1960s.
- Since the 1970s, the thrust of India's anti-malaria programme has been on controlling the disease.
- The National Vector and Disease Control Programme, 2004, the plan's predecessor, too aimed at "controlling" malaria.
- There are time-bound targets for all districts, based on their vulnerability to malaria.
- The plan lays emphasis on awareness programmes, entomological surveillance and outbreak warning systems "methods that have contributed to eradicating malaria in several parts of the world, including Sri Lanka.

Challenges

- Manpower shortage which has virtually crippled a large number of the country's primary health centres.
- This shortage not only jeopardises early detection and treatment of the disease, but is also a cause for a large number of cases going unreported.

- Under-reporting of malaria makes it difficult to accurately estimate the burden of the disease.

India's Vulnerability to malaria

- Malaria parasite has been particularly resilient for centuries.
- **Plasmodium vivax** parasite responsible for almost 50 per cent of India's malaria burden has adapted to anti-malarial drugs.

Way forward

- Compared to several other communicable diseases, malaria is not a particularly complex disease. What we need to do is to stop mosquitoes from transmitting the parasite or make the parasite ineffective.
- Beefing up indigenous research on the disease

C. GS3 Related

Category: ECONOMICS

1. [Does a minimum wage kill jobs?](#)

Context

- The Union Cabinet is expected to approve a bill that, mandates a **universal minimum wage**.
- The code empowers **the Centre to set a minimum wage** to help poor, unskilled workers earn more.

Problems with minimum wage

- Economists warned that price floors prevent the available supply of goods from being fully sold.
- So, the minimum wage would logically hurt workers by increasing unemployment

Minimum wage and unemployment:

- Famous 1993 study by David Card and Alan B. Krueger found that a rise in the minimum wage in New Jersey actually decreased unemployment.
- "Seattle's Minimum Wage Experience 2015-16", a 2017 found that since the city raised its minimum wage in 2015, unemployment dropped from 4.3% to 3.3%.
- Since then, a flurry of studies has concluded that a minimum wage has either no, or very little, negative effect on employment.
- But another paper, found that employment among the youth in Denmark decreased by one-third when they attained the age at which their minimum wage increases by 40%.

The real effect:

- The minimum wage increases unemployment, except when it is set below the market price for labour; or only marginally higher, in which case the minimum wage enhances the bargaining power of workers.
- But figuring out, and also periodically adjusting, the wage rate at which the worker benefits is often impractical.

Other effects of minimum wage?

- Even when it looks like the minimum wage has no negative effect on employment; it can have other unintended effects.
- Companies, for example, instead of firing workers, may employ them for fewer hours, which in turn will affect the quality of their services
- "Minimum Wage and Restaurant Hygiene Violation", a 2017 paper found that hygiene violations by restaurants increased significantly after a rise in the minimum wage as the restaurants tried to cut down on cleaning-staff expenses.

2. [After globalisation's promise](#)

Context

- "Hyperglobalisation" has been used to describe the dramatic increase in international trade witnessed for about a decade and a half from the early 1990s up to the global financial crisis of 2008
- The imagery intended is one of an increasing connectedness among nations leading to a virtuous cycle of economic expansion

History of Globalisation

- Starting some time in the last quarter of the 19th century, for close to 50 years, the world saw an expansion in trade that was actually as great or even greater than during the recently concluded phase
- Then had also occurred an unprecedented movement of capital and of people
- British capital flowed into building the railways across the world, immigrants moved from Europe to the United States and Asian labour was moved to the sites of deployment of western capital
- The phase of high trade starting 1870 came to an end with the First World War and was to revive, slowly, only after the Second
- Then, following the collapse of East European communism in the early 1990s, there was a resurgence in global trade
- Now even this phase has somewhat abruptly ended with the global financial crisis

Role of technology

- 19th century globalisation was underpinned by technological advances that facilitated trade
- It may as well be said that trade expanded as the demand for goods grew

The slowdown and India

- If the world economy is set to grow slowly for the foreseeable future, a premise of much of the economic policy in India since 1991 would have to be replaced
- The shift that has taken place is most visible in the IT industry
- Now, “bricks and mortar” is no longer something to be spurned and soiling our hands may be part of the business of earning our living for some time to come

What does India need to do?

- Recognising the diminished tempo of globalisation, India’s economic policymakers must address the growth of the home market
- This means increasing the demand for goods and services emanating from within the country
- There is a case for cutting the repo rate now, but its effects are doubtful

Way forward

- Independently of the “twin balance sheet problem”, Keynesian economics has long recognised that lowering the rate of interest may not do much for private investment if the expected rate of return is depressed
- The slowing of both global trade and domestic manufacturing may have had precisely this effect by lowering the long-term expectations held by private investors
- Buoying up of flagging demand can be done through public investment
- Infrastructure is unique in that spending on it raises aggregate demand and when it actually comes on stream, it raises the productivity of investment elsewhere in the economy
- “Roads and bridges” are a metaphor for the public infrastructure that the Indian economy can fruitfully absorb today

Category: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. [Govt. panel to study cow derivatives](#)

In News

- The government has set up a 19-member panel to carry out scientifically validated research on cow derivatives including its urine, and their benefits
- The panel has been named as National Steering Committee

About project

- The government has given the project the acronym SVAROP, which stands for Scientific Validation and Research on Panchagavya
- The committee will select projects that can help scientifically validate the benefits of panchgavya “the concoction of cow dung, cow urine, milk, curd and ghee” in various spheres such as nutrition, health and agriculture
- It is being conducted by the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of the Ministry of Science and Technology in collaboration with IIT-Delhi
- It will cover five thematic areas including scientific validation of uniqueness of indigenous cows

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G. Practice Questions for UPSC Prelims Exam

G. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

GS Paper II

1. Examine how Aadhaar’s design protects individual’s identity and privacy?

GS Paper III

1. Discuss the effects of minimum wages on employment?
 2. What do you mean by Hyper-globalisation? Discuss how hyper-globalisation has lead to a “virtuous cycle of economic expansion”?
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