**GALLANT IAS ACADEMY**

**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**JUNE 27-JULY 3rd**

**Index**

Polity

1. Adjournment motion
2. New Criminal Laws
3. National Party

IR

1. Shanghai cooperation organisation
2. Financial Action Task Force
3. NATO

Economics

1. MSMEs
2. NPA
3. Currency Swap Plan

**Ecology**

1. mainland Serow
2. Cheetah
3. BT cotton

**Society**

1. Labour Force Participation Rate- Women

**Art and Culture**

1. Somnathpur temple

**Sources-** The Hindu, The Indian Express, Business Line, PIB, govt official websites

**Adjournment motion**

PYQ 2024- Q. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statement :

1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.

2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India Prorogating the House which is in session.

3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statement given above is/are correct?

**Adjournment Motion**

1. The adjournment motion is introduced in the Parliament to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance
2. needs the support of 50 members to be admitted
3. Element of censure hence Rajya Sabha not permitted(censure and no- confidence motion)

**Restrictions**

It should raise a matter which is definite, factual, urgent and of public importance.

It should not cover more than one matter.

It should be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence and should not be framed in general terms.

It should not raise a question of privilege.

It should not revive discussion on a matter that has been discussed in the same session.

It should not deal with any matter that is under adjudication by the court.

It should not raise any question that can be raised on a distinct motion.

Adjournment-

1. An adjournment terminates a sitting of the House.,
2. Adjournment sine die

Prorogation-

1. Prorogation means the end of a session.,
2. The President can prorogue the House while in session also,
3. All pending notices lapse on the prorogation of the House

Dissolution-

1. The Lok Sabha is dissolved at the end of its five-year term (automatic dissolution) or by Presidential order
2. When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, all business including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions, etc. pending before it or its committees lapse.
3. Only the President can dissolve the House.
4. Bills

**New Criminal Laws**

GS2- Government policies and interventions for the development of various sectors Issues arising out of design and implementation of government intervention

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)

PYQ2023- Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism? (250 words, 15 marks)

**Need for reforms**

1. Modernisation- CrPC, IPC, IEA colonial era laws, need to reflect ideals of a democratic state
2. Ensuring timely justice- jurisprudence over burdened( S.C- 71000, H.C- 6 million, L.C-41 million)
3. Conviction rate- less due to inefficiency in legal systems and police force
4. Incorporating recommendations- Law Commission, Malimath Commission, Justice Verma Commission

**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023,**

1. IPC ,1860- before charters, regulations, religious codes then Macaulay committee
2. Removes sedition- sec 124A, aligns with art 19(2), rajdroh to dashdroh, 1962 Kedarnath Singh case
3. Defines Terrorism- in line with (UAPA,TADA,POTA) , burden of proof on accused
4. Organised crime to distinct category
5. Moblynching- more than 5, death penalty and imprisonment, race cast community
6. Community service- petty crimes
7. Consolidate sex offences- women and children, marital rape minor(ipc 15 year), sexual intercourse by deceitful means (10 years) clause 69
8. Implements SC judgements- Navtej Singh Johar Vs UOI, sec 377 repealed, adultery 498 IPC removed, rape of man
9. Miscellaneous - snatching, hit and run, suicide attempt , animal cruelty, police custody to 90 days

**Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023**

1. CrPC 1970- arrest, prosecution, bail provisions
2. Detention of under trials- Prison Statistics India 2021 records, Undertrials constitute 77% and among them 68% belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.131% occupancy - BNSS liberalises it first time offender completed 1/3rd of his time gets bail on bond, ½ time bail
3. Forensic investigation- mandatory for crime > 7 years
4. Signature, voice sample and finger impressions
5. Timeline for procedures- judgement in criminal case with in 45 days of end of trial, zero FIR, online registration of complaints, electronic communication

**Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)**

1. Indian Evidence Act- colonial law, not accounting for modern tech
2. Admissibility of digital evidence and sanctity as of paper evidence
3. Documentary evidence
4. Simplified procedure for oral evidence- electronic means
5. Joint trials- trial in absentia ( state duty to locate forgone)

**Issues**

1. New terms for existing terms
2. Wider definition- eg sedition
3. Ambiguous terminology- modesty of women, sovereignty
4. Missed opportunity- marital rape, gender neutral adultery laws
5. Practical difficulty- 377 rape
6. Institutional challenges

**National Party**

GS2- Salient features of the People’s Representation Act

PYQ2017- Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.

2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties

. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

As per the ECI’s Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook order

**Criteria**

1.It is ‘recognised’ in four or more states as state party

2.If its secures at least 6% of total valid votes in at least 4 states (in latest Lok Sabha or Assembly elections) and the party has at least 4 MPs in the last LS polls; or

3.If it has won at least 2% of the total seats in the LS from at least 3 states.

**Benefits**

1. More star campaigners
2. Guaranteed use of common election symbols
3. Land or accommodation for an office in Delhi
4. Free copies of electoral rolls
5. Airtime in DD and AIR during election time

Home work- state party

**Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

GS2- Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

PYQ 2023:Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO.' In the light of the above statement, point out the role of India in mitigating the problems

**Member states- China**,India,**Kazakhstan**,**Kyrgyzstan**,**Russia**,Pakistan,**Tajikistan**,Uzbekistan,Iran

**Aims**

1. Strengthen relations among member states
2. Promote cooperation in multiple fields such as politics, security tourism etc.
3. Safeguard regional peace, security and stability
4. Moving toward the establishment of a democratic, rational, and fair new international economic and political order.

**Challenges**

1. Anti NATO perception
2. Distrust among members- India - China, India- pak, Iran- pak
3. Definition of terrorism- India (state sponsored) , RATS(regional anti terrorist structure) regime destabilisation
4. Conflict in connectivity goals- BRI, connect Central Asia policy India
5. Dominance of China and Russia- afghan contact group
6. India’s membership of SCO and QUAD(INDIA,US,JAPAN,AUSTRALIA)

**Significance**

1. Energy security- petroleum, natural gas, critical minerals, Chabahar port,INSTC
2. Economic cooperation- 40% of world population and 22% Global GDP
3. Security cooperation
4. Gateway to Eurasia and Central Asia - Eurasian Economic Union
5. Status beyond South Asia
6. Values- harmony, non-interference
7. India- Pak, India- China engagement

**Way forward**

1. Sponsoring digital transformation in SCO by country’s expertise in UPI etc
2. Boosting regional connectivity INSTC
3. Informal negotiation for regional peace- track 2 negotiation
4. Cultural and educational ties- international Yoga day, Buddhist circuit

**Financial Action Task Force**

GS2- Important International Institutions, agencies and fora - their Structure, Mandate.

PYQ2016-The term ‘Base Erosion and Profit Shifting’ is sometimes seen in the news in the context of (2016)

(a) mining operation by multinational companies in resource-rich but backward areas

(b) curbing of the tax evasion by multinational companies

(c) exploitation of genetic resources of a country by multinational companies

(d) lack of consideration of environmental costs in the planning and implementation of developmental projects

**FATF**

Founded: 1989 intergovernmental organisation,Headquarters: Paris, France

Members: 39 (37 countries and 2 regional organizations), India 2010

Objectives

Primary Goal: Combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Recommendations: 40 Recommendations, forming a comprehensive framework for fighting money laundering and terrorist financing.

Blacklist and Greylist: Identifies jurisdictions with weak measures against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Blacklist: High-risk jurisdictions.- North Korea, Iran, Myanmar

Greylist: Jurisdictions under increased monitoring.- Pakistan till 2022

**Mutual Evaluation Report (MER)**

India has been classified into the 'regular follow-up' category, joining Russia, France, Italy, and the UK, also designated in this category.

FATF categorises member countries into four groups: regular follow-up, enhanced follow-up, grey list, and black list.

These reports are peer reviews where members from different countries assess another country

**Steps by India- J**AM trinity, digital payment Eco system

**Implications**

1. Better access to international financial markets
2. Boost investor confidence
3. Global expansion of UPI

**North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

Context- Dutch PM Mark Rutte appointed as next NATO chief

GS2-Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

* The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance formed in 1949
* Collective defence system
* Cold War- NATO, Warsaw pact
* Members32- founding members- were: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States
* Sweden joined on 2024
* Marshall plan and Molotov plan

**MSMEs**

GS3- Inclusive Growth and issues arising from it.

Consider the following statements with reference to India:

PYQ 2023-According to the 'Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006', the 'medium enterprises' are those with investments in plant and machinery between ₹ 15 crore and ₹ 25 crore.

All bank loans to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises qualify under the priority sector.

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

Context: use of technology for MSME growth

**Key points**

1. Fostering entrepreneurship
2. Employment opportunity for semi skilled youth
3. Reduction in poverty
4. Use of technology such as - cloud computing, Big data, AI

**Challenges**

1. Digital divide
2. Cyber threats and cyber frauds
3. Lack of infrastructure
4. Missing middle problem
5. **MSME**
6. MSME stands for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. MSMEs are businesses that produce, process, and preserve goods and commodities.30% of GDP
7. Changes made- investment limit increased,annual turnover criterion, distinction in definition on manufacturing and service done away with

**Non Performing Assets**

GS3- Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

Context:

* Share of bad loans 10% in 2017
* Bank increased loans to retailers
* Slippage increasing in retail loans
* Delinquency in loans below 50000 increasing

NPA- it is usually a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a certain period of time.(90days)

**Reasons**

1. Over optimism or risk taking by banks
2. Slow growth
3. External factors- inflation
4. Regulatory and policy risk- red tape, eg.aviation sector
5. Poor credit appraisal- end use restriction
6. Wilful defaulters
7. Ineffective recovery tribunal
8. Political interference

**Impact**

1. Profitability
2. Credit contraction
3. Liability management- low interest on deposit and high on loans
4. Capital adequacy- BASAL norms, CAR for risk weighted assets and current liability
5. Shareholders confidence
6. Public confidence

**Measures by RBI**

1. Loss recognition- asset quality review and stopped evergreening of loans
2. Prompt corrective action- Allahabad bank
3. Identification of incipient stress- special mention account
4. Simplification of resolution in bad loans- strategic debt restructuring,sustainable structuring of stressed asset(s4a)
5. Collection of credit information- central repository of information on large credits(crilc) 5 crore and above

**Govt Measures**

1. Insolvency and bankruptcy code 2016(hw)
2. Banking regulation act 1949 amended to give power for RBI to give directions
3. The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002- amended for 3 month imprisonment and 30 days to attach
4. Indradhanush mission- infusing capital to psb
5. Project Sasakth- Sunil Mehta committee, 5 prong-strategy to deal npa

Write offs

**Currency Swap Plan**

A currency swap agreement between two countries is a contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions for liquidity support

to ensure adequate foreign currency to avoid the Balance of Payments (BOP) crisis

The RBI can offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion. U.S dollar,euro, Indian rupee

**Mainland Serow**

Context- Raimona national park in w.Assam, 96ms above msl

Mammal- medium sized goat like or antelope like

Native to Himalaya, Bhutan, south east Asia

Territorial and live alone, 3feet high.

Males have horns, IUCN - vu

CITES- appendix 1

**Cheetah**

Context- Gandhi sagar WLS to be second home for cheetahs,

Survival of the fittest, competition with leopard

PYQ2023-Consider the following statements regarding the Indian squirrels:

They build nests by making burrows in the ground.

They store their food materials like nuts and seeds in the ground.

They are omnivorous.

How many of the above statements are correct?

a) Only one

b) Only two

c) All three

d) None

**Cheetah**

* Fastest land animals
* Carnivorous
* Grassland, savannah,forest
* 1952 extinct in India
* Namibia cheetah capital of the world
* IUCN- vu
* Gandhinagar WLS- Chambal river, M.P

**BT cotton**

GS3- awareness in the fields of biotechnology

UPSC Prelims 2021 Question: Bollgard I and Bollgard II technologies are mentioned in the context of

A.clonal propagation of crop plants

B.developing genetically modified crop plants

c.production of plant growth substances

D.production of biofertilizers

1. To combat boll worms
2. Genetically modified against insects by bacillus thuringiensis DNA(Cry1Ac)
3. Reduce insecticides
4. Commercial cultivation allowed
5. BT cotton approved in 2002 followed by 2 gene BT cotton (Bollgard II) in 2006
6. Doesn’t harm non target beneficial insects

**Labour Force Participation Rate- Women**

GS1- Role of Women and Women’s Organization, Population and Associated Issues

GS2-Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies constituted for the Protection and Betterment of these Vulnerable Sections.

PYQ 2019- What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? (250 words, 15 Marks)

Labour force participation rate(LFPR)- LFPR is the percentage of the working-age population (aged 15 years and above) that is either employed or unemployed, but willing and looking for employment

LFPR-M : 75.8 to 78.5

LFPR-F: 23.3 to 37

1. Gender disparity
2. Rural urban gap- feminisation of agriculture
3. Europe (52%) N.America(56%) ,east Asia& pacific (59%) global 49%

**Reasons**

1. Unpaid care work- Tamilnadu party to give payment,nsso male(1.5h) women(5h), ILO(76.2% care work)
2. Societal norms and cultural expectation-
3. Lack of supportive policy- gender based economic disparity
4. Nuclear family- double burden
5. Lack of access to education- son-meta preference, missing women,vicious cycle of poverty,health
6. Limited job opportunity- WEF gender gap report- 134 years to parity
7. Safety concerns
8. Rising household income
9. Lack of rural connectivity

**Government initiatives**

1. Survival and education of females- Beti bachao beti Padgaonkar scheme, NEP 2020
2. Safe and convenient accommodation- working women’s hostel
3. Violence against women- One Stop Centre(OSC) , universalisation of women helpline
4. Codification of labour laws for harmonising the needs of job seekers
5. Various laws passed - maternity benefits (amendment ) act, 2017, POSH act
6. Promoting entrepreneurship - MUDRA, Stand Up India and Mahila-e-hat
7. Rashtriya mahila kosh- micro finance credit to women
8. Prime minister employment generation program (PMEGP) - subsidy 25% in rural and 35% in urban

**Way forward**

1. Need for Women’s urban employment guarantee act- free public transportation for women eg Delhi
2. MGNREGS , Ensure high participation of women by including ‘women centric work’
3. Identification of niche sectors- ‘girl who codes’ program U.S
4. Accounting for care work in GDP calculation
5. Invest in silver economy- india’s elderly to rise from 10 to 20% by 2050

**Somnathapur Temple**

PYQ2019.Building 'Kalyaana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

A.Chalukya

B.Chandela

C.Rashtrakuta

D.Vijayanagara

1. Somnathapur town was founded by Somnatha who was governor to Hoysala king Narasimha 3
2. Vaishnava Hindu temple
3. In 2023 Somnathpur temple, Hoysaleswara temple at Halebidu and Chennakesava temple at belur declared world heritage site by UNESCO

**Architecture**

1. The main building built on Jagati- worldly platform
2. Stellar pattern
3. Pradakshina patha provided
4. 3 garbha Griha(sanctums)
5. Nagar style tower with intricate work

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the adjournment motion in the Indian Parliament:

1.An adjournment motion needs the support of at least 50 members to be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

2.It is used to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.

3.An adjournment motion is allowed in the Rajya Sabha as well as in the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**(a) 1 and 2 only**

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, and 3

Q. Consider the statements regarding NATO

1. Belgium, France ,Netherlands and Sweden are among the founding members of NATO
2. NATO is a collective security organisation

Which of the following statements are correct

A.1 only

B.2 only

C.Both 1&2

**D. Neither 1 nor 2**

Q.With reference to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the banking sector, consider the following statements:

1. An asset becomes non-performing when it ceases to generate income for the bank.
2. In India, an asset is classified as an NPA when principal or interest payment remains overdue for a period of 90 days.
3. NPAs can affect the profitability and liquidity of banks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

**d) 1, 2, and 3**