

## Current Affairs: 03/04.12.2021

### SUCCESSION PLANNING (BUSINESSES)



Prominent business families that run empires such as the Reliance Industries Group and the Shriram Group have been in the news recently for their plans to set up trusts to ensure smooth transition of assets and control of the business to their heirs.

#### About:

- This is primarily to avoid the messy legal battles and litigation seen among business groups in the past.
- Succession planning for a large or small family business entails transition of the management, the ownership and control of the business to the next generation of leaders, most often from within the family.
- Over the years, this process has changed from writing a will to setting up a management trust to manage the assets of the business and to ensure systematic decision-making and execution, helping the business become a wealth creator even after the demise of its founders.
- A trust is a fiduciary relationship in which one party, called a trustor, transfers an asset/ property, to another party, called a trustee. The trustee then manages this asset for the benefit of a third party, called a beneficiary.  
Trusts are tax-efficient. Very broadly, the transfer of assets to a trust in which your family members are the beneficiaries are not taxable at either end. It means neither the transferor nor the beneficiary will be taxed.

### KONYAK TRIBE

At the centre of the violence which followed the killing of six civilians in Oting village of Mon district in Nagaland, and which led to the killing of eight more civilians, are the Konyaks – among the largest tribes in the state.

#### About:

- With a population of roughly 3 lakh, the area inhabited by the Konyaks extends into Arunachal Pradesh, with a sizeable population in Myanmar as well.
- Known to be one of the fiercest warrior tribes in Nagaland, the Konyaks were the last to give up the practice of head-hunting – severing heads of enemies after attacking rival tribes – as late as the 1980s.
- Mon is the only district in Nagaland where separatist group NSCN (IM) has not been able to set up base camps, largely due to resistance from the Konyaks.  
Due to their numbers and the tribe's anti-NSCN (IM) position, the Konyaks forms the backbone of the NNPG – 7 Naga insurgent groups indigenous to Nagaland – unlike the IM, which is dominated by the Manipur-origin Tangkhul tribe.

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The Konyaks therefore, are imperative for a smooth resolution of the peace talks, as well as the post-talk peace process in the state.



## AZADI KA DIGITAL MAHOTSAV



The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) today hosted a unique event - 'Digital Payment Utsav' as part of the week-long 'Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav'.

### About:

- The day celebrated the journey and rise of digital payments in India and brought together leaders from the Government, banking sector, fintech companies and startups.
- The event witnessed the unveiling of the DIGIDHAN logo, launch of an awareness campaign called Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra with digital payments anthem titled 'Chutki Baja ke' (cashless, touchless, paperless).
- During the event, MeitY also recognised the contribution of four payment system aggregators for onboarding street vendors under the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

### Important Info :

- **The event saw the launch of innovative solutions like:**
- **Payments On the Go:** Wearables are re-defining the true paperless contactless payments, catalysing them further, Bank of Baroda and City Union Bank launched Rupay-on-the-Go.
- **Inclusive Credit for All:** Credit cards represent the next big in fintech and contactless is truly the way forward. To drive it to the next level, India Post Payments Bank-Punjab National Bank, Kotak Bank, YES Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, and City Union Bank launched Contactless Credit cards on the RuPay network.
- **Empowering Small Merchants:** India has close to 1.5 crore retail stores/ Kiryana stores. Union Bank announced an android-based SOFTPOS mobile app for point of sales, which will further the cause of digital payment adoption.

## KILLER SQUADRON



three Prabal Class missile boats.

**Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India, will award the President's Standard to the 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron, also known as the Killer Squadron at a ceremonial parade to be held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 08 December 2021.**

**About:** The 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron was formally established at Mumbai in Oct 1991 with ten Veer Class and

However, the genesis of ‘Killers’ dates back to the year 1969, with the induction of OSA I Class missile boats from erstwhile USSR to bolster the strength of the Indian Navy.

- These missile boats were transported to India on heavy lift merchant ships and commissioned in early 1971 at Kolkata. They were baptised by fire in the same year during the Indo – Pak war of 1971 where they played a decisive role in the outcome of the war.

## President’s Standard



- The President’s Standard is the highest honour bestowed by the Supreme Commander to a military unit in recognition of the service rendered to the nation.
- The Indian Navy was awarded the President’s Colours on 27 May 1951 by the then President of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad.
- The President’s Standard is the same honour as the President’s Colours, awarded to a relatively smaller military formation or unit.

### **SANDHAYAK**

**‘Sandhayak’, the first of the four Survey Vessels (Large) project being built for the Indian Navy, was launched in Kolkata on December 05, 2021.**

### **About:**

- These Vessels have been designed and developed by Defence Public Sector Undertaking, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Limited, which is among the leading warship building companies in India.

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These survey ships are capable of full scale coastal & deep-water hydrographic survey of Ports & Harbour approaches and determination of navigational channels & routes.

- These ships are also capable of undertaking survey of maritime limits and collection of Oceanographic & Geographical data for Defence applications, thus boosting the maritime capabilities of the country.
- These ships are propelled by two Marine Diesel Engines combined with Fixed Pitch Propellers and fitted with Bow & Stern Thrusters for manoeuvring at low speeds during surveys.

## EXERCISE EKUVERIN



**11th Edition of Exercise EKUVERIN between India & Maldives will be conducted at Kadhoo Island, Maldives from 06 to 19 December 2021.**

### About:

The exercise will enhance synergy & inter-operability between Armed Forces of both the Nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land & at sea, conducting Counter Terrorism & Counter Insurgency Operations and sharing best military practices and experiences.

- Besides rigorous training, the joint military exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations.
- The exercise will go a long way in strengthening India's relations with Maldives amidst emerging security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region. **International**

## AJAZ PATEL



**New Zealand's Ajaz Patel, became the third bowler in Test cricket history, after England's Jim Laker and Anil Kumble of India, to take 10 wickets in an innings.**

**About:** The Kiwi performed the feat on the second day of the second Test against India in Mumbai, the place of his birth. English Pacer Jim Laker recorded the feat in 1956 and Indian Spinner Anil Kumble achieved the milestone in 1999.

## CULTURE MAPPING OF 80 VILLAGES

**Culture mapping of 80 villages associated with noted personalities in history, in particular the freedom movement, unique crafts and festivals has been started as a pilot project, Culture Ministry officials said.**

### About:

- The project is expected to be completed this financial year.
- From Sempore in Kashmir to Kanjirapally in Kerala, villages with a connection to the freedom movement as well as those with their own art practices have been selected for the project, being conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).



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The project would lead to a “national register and interactive database of artists and art practices from the villages of India”. Each artist would be given a unique ID and an e-commerce platform set up.

- The work under the mission involves coordinating the data collection through ground and field surveys conducted on the basis of detailed formats and questionnaires, mobile application, interactive web-portal and an over-the-top (OTT) platform to showcase ethnographic documentaries/ cultural events/ festival/ melas etc. of villages.

## List

- On the list of villages selected is Sempore or Pandrenthan in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir that is associated with 14th Century mystic Lal Ded or Lalleshwari.
- From Ladakh, the pilot project included Choglamsar and Wanla villages, known for wood carving.
- Khatkar Kalan village in Punjab, which has a memorial of Bhagat Singh; Reni village of Uttarakhand, where the Chipko movement started; and Kathputli Colony in Delhi, known for the “migrant kathputli artists”, are also on the list.
- Two villages in Tamil Nadu — Ettayapuram (the birthplace of poet Subramania Bharathi) and Thiruchigadi (a village of “women potters”) — are also on the list.

## MALAIYAHA TAMILS

**Sri Lanka’s Malaiyaha Tamil workers, whose labour in tea plantations fetches precious foreign exchange to the country, are living in “inhumane and degrading” conditions, a UN expert has said.**

### About:

- Contemporary forms of slavery have an ethnic dimension.
- In particular, Malaiyaha Tamils —who were brought from India to work in the plantation sector 200 years ago — continue to face multiple forms of discrimination based on their origin, said Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery. The plight of the Malaiyaha Tamil community, historically neglected and marginalised, has received relatively less international attention.
- Roughly 1.5 lakh people from the community, with a population over 10 lakh, are engaged in direct labour in the estates, and most of them are women.
- Their daily wage of LKR 1,000 (about ₹373) — won after sustained protests in recent years — is tied to an arduous target of 18-22 kg of plucked tea leaves every day, to be met rain or shine, while braving leeches and wasp attacks.
- A prominent item in Sri Lanka’s export basket — apart from garments, rubber, and spices — tea brings roughly \$1.3 billion a year into the country.
- India has committed to building 14,000 houses in Sri Lanka’s hill country, but the construction is progressing at a slow pace amid private plantation companies’ apparent reluctance to part with land.

## S-GENE DROP OUT

**The Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has been confirmed in India and in at least 30 other countries by the World Health Organization (WHO).**

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## What is the S-gene drop out?

- While the variant can only be reliably confirmed with genome sequencing, the WHO has also recommended that certain commonly used COVID-19 detection tests, with 'S-gene dropout' capabilities, can be used to quickly screen for an Omicron infection.
- Tests usually look for three target genes related to parts of the virus: S (spike), N2 (nucleocapsid or inner area) and E (envelope or outer shell).
- The S-gene refers to the gene that codes for the spike protein, or the most distinctive part of the coronavirus.
- The SARS-CoV-2, like many other coronaviruses, has key protein-regions that define its structure: The envelope protein (E), the nucleocapsid protein (N), the membrane protein (M) and the spike protein (S).
- To accurately identify the virus, diagnostic tests are made that can identify characteristic genes that make these proteins.

## STATUTORY BAIL

**The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has approached the Supreme Court against a Bombay High Court order granting bail to advocate and activist Sudha Bharadwaj. In its bail order, the court has asked the NIA Court to decide the conditions for her release on December 8.**

### About:

- While she was given 'default bail', eight others were denied the benefit in the same case.
- The case highlights the nuances involved in a court determining the circumstances in which statutory bail is granted or denied, even though it is generally considered "an indefeasible right".
- Default bail, also known as statutory bail, is a right to bail that accrues when the police fail to complete investigation within a specified period in respect of a person in judicial custody.
- This is enshrined in Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure where it is not possible for the police to complete an investigation in 24 hours, the police produce the suspect in court and seek orders for either police or judicial custody.
- This section concerns the total period up to which a person may be remanded in custody prior to filing of charge sheet.
- For most offences, the police have 60 days to complete the investigation and file a final report before the court. However, where the offence attracts death sentence or life imprisonment, or a jail term of not less than 10 years, the period available is 90 days.
- In other words, a magistrate cannot authorise a person's judicial remand beyond the 60-or 90-day limit. At the end of this period, if the investigation is not complete, the court shall release the person "if he is prepared to and does furnish bail".

**Buoyed by the success of its innovative Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) in Karnataka, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has now replicated the project in Assam.**

### About:

- Chairman KVIC, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena launched Project RE-HAB at Village Mornoi in Goalpara district of Assam which severely grapples with elephant-human conflicts. The project has been implemented in Assam with the support of the local forest department.

Surrounded by dense forests, a large part of Assam is infested by elephants with 332 human deaths reported between 2014 and 2019 due to elephant

attacks.

### Working

- Under Project RE-HAB, “Bee-fences” are created by setting up bee boxes in the passage ways of elephants to block their entrance to human territories.
- The boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug or pull causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further.
- It is a cost-effective way of reducing human-wild conflicts without causing any harm to the animals. It is scientifically recorded that elephants are annoyed by the honey bees.
- Elephants also fear that the bee swarms can bite their sensitive inner side of the trunk and eyes. The collective buzz of the bees is annoying to elephants that force them to return.

### Project RE-HAB

- Notably, Project RE-HAB is a sub-mission of KVIC’s National Honey Mission.
- While the Honey Mission is a programme to increase the bee population, honey production and beekeepers’ income by setting up apiaries, Project RE-HAB uses bee boxes as a fence to prevent the elephant attacks.
- Project RE-HAB was launched at 11 locations in Kodagu district of Karnataka on 15th March 2021. In just 6 months, this project has reduced elephant attacks by over 70%.

## PARLIAMENT QUESTIONS

**Over the last few sessions, MPs mainly from the Opposition have often alleged their questions have been disallowed in Parliament of India.**

### How are questions admitted?

- In both Houses, elected members enjoy the right to seek information from various ministries and departments in the form of starred questions, unstarred questions, short notice questions and questions to private members.
- Usually, MPs’ questions form a long list, which then go through a rigorous process of clearance. The admissibility of questions in Rajya Sabha is governed by Rules 47-50 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.
- Once a question that fulfils the conditions of admissibility is received, the Secretariat sends it to the ministry concerned.
- Once the facts are received from the ministry, the question is further examined for admissibility.
- A final list of questions is circulated to ministers, on the basis of which they frame their answers.

## PUNJAB’S SIX AGRO-CLIMATIC ZONES

**Amid talk of MSP guarantee and Punjab’s urgent need to break away from the wheat-paddy cycle, experts feel that the state must follow cropping pattern as per its agro-climatic and soil conditions to protect the environment while increasing farmers’ income.**

### About:

- According to Punjab Agriculture University (PAU), Ludhiana, there are six agro-climatic zones in Punjab which include Sub-Mountain Undulating Region, Undulating Plain Region (UPR), Central Plain Region (CPR), Western Plain Region (WPR), Western Region (WR) and Flood Plain Region (FPR).



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These regions have rainfall variations from 165 mm to 2000 mm annually and climate from humid to cold-arid to arid and extreme arid. The variations in soil range from hill soils, tarai, brown hill, alluvial to desert.

## The Zones

- In Zone 1 and 2, district like Pathnakot, Ropar, Mohali, Gurdaspur, and Hoshiarpur are included and in Zone 3 districts like Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala and Sangrur are included.
- In Zone 4, Ferozepur, Moga, Barnala, and Faridkot are the parts while in Zone 5, Mukatsar, Fazilka, Bathinda and Mansa are included and in Zone 6, the parts of various districts along with Beas, Sutlej, Ravi, Ghaggar rivers are included which are the flood-prone.
- In these zones all agro-climatic conditions, rainfall pattern, distribution, soil texture are taken into account to have a suitable cropping pattern, said experts, adding that temperatures and humidity levels are also little bit different from each other in all these zones.

## HIMACHAL PRADESH VACCINATION

**Himachal Pradesh government will organize a mega event at AIIMS Bilaspur to mark the achievement of hundred percent COVID vaccination of second dose for its eligible population.**

### About:

- It may be recalled that the state had become a champion in meeting the 100 percent target of the first dose across the country and now it has achieved the 100 percent target of the second dose of covid vaccination and became the first state which fully vaccinated against covid 19. BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda will also inaugurate OPD at AIIMS Bilaspur.

### Important Info :

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur (AIIMS Bilaspur) is a public Institute of National importance based in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh.
- On 4 October 2017 Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the institute. It was inaugurated on 12 January 2021.

## PROJECTS LAUNCHED IN DEHRADUN

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects worth around 18,000 crore rupees at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.**

### About:

- He said, the reconstruction of Kedar Dham in the State has not only increased the number of devotees coming for Darshan, but has also provided many opportunities for employment and self-employment to the local people.
- The seven projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister, consist of initiatives focusing on making travel safer by tackling the problem of chronic landslides in the region.
- He also inaugurated the 120 MW **Vyasi Hydroelectric Project**, built over Yamuna river at the cost of over 1,700 crore rupees, along with a Himalayan Culture Centre in Dehradun.



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## Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

- The 11 projects for which foundation was laid include the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor which will be built at a cost of around 8,300 crore rupees.
- It will significantly reduce the travel time from Delhi to Dehradun from six hours to around 2.5 hours. It will have Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor of 12 kilometres for unrestricted wildlife movement. It will also boost inter-state tourism.