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WHAT IS THE 'ONE CASE ONE DATA' INITIATIVE?

- **'One Case One Data'** is a major digital initiative launched by the **Supreme Court of India.**
- It is a comprehensive **digital platform** designed to **integrate case-related information from the Supreme Court, High Courts, district courts and taluka courts** into a **unified system.**
- It is aimed at strengthening the case management framework through **integrated judicial data access in courts across India.**
- It will **automate data retrieval from the concerned courts' database** and facilitate **swift online verification of case-related information.**
- **Each case** will be assigned a **single unique digital identity**, allowing **all related records** to be linked in **one continuous case file.**
- **When a case moves from a lower court to a higher court, existing records will not be recreated** but will be seamlessly **integrated and updated**, ensuring continuity and easier access to complete case history.

What is Su Sahay?

- It is an **Artificial Intelligence-powered assistance chatbot integrated with the Supreme Court website** to facilitate easier access to justice and **court-related services for litigants.**
- It was **developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC)** in **collaboration with the Supreme Court Registry.**
- The tool provides essential **guidance on accessing services, filing procedures,** and **general court-related inquiries.**

NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- It was **launched in 2014-15** under the framework of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).**
- It was envisaged as a strategic intervention to **mitigate the adverse impacts** of **climate variability on agriculture** while ensuring long-term food and livelihood security.
    - Since 2022-23 it has been included under the umbrella of **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PMRKVY).**
- It promotes **climate-resilient farming** through a set of targeted and integrated interventions.
- It provides a strong foundation for **sustainable agricultural development** by enhancing water-use efficiency, improving soil health, and strengthening climate resilient agriculture.

Key interventions under NMSA:

- **Rainfed Area Development (RAD):** It encourages Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) for diversified and risk-resilient agriculture.
- **Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) initiative:** It **promotes micro-irrigation** to improve water-use efficiency.
- **Soil Health Management (SHM):** It is supported by the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, which promotes balanced nutrient use and sustains long-term soil fertility.
- **Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN):** It provides creation and bidirectional (land/farmers to research/scientific establishments and vice versa) dissemination of climate change related information and knowledge.

- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

JUTE CROP INFORMATION SYSTEM

- It is a **technology-driven platform** developed in collaboration with **Indian Space Research Organisation and the Jute Corporation of India.**
- It is being **implemented since 2023.**

- **Purpose:** To improve crop **monitoring and production assessment** in **the jute sector.**
- **Working:**
  - It **integrates satellite imagery**, weather analytics, vegetation indices and field-level inputs to enable **near real-time monitoring of jute cultivation** and production trends.
  - It includes **two digital tools**
    - **BHUVAN JUMP**: It is a **mobile application** for field-level monitoring.
    - **PATSAN:** It is a **web-based analytics platform** designed to provide surveillance and crop-related assessments for officials and stakeholders.
  - This new system has introduced a **more structured and evidence-based approach** to crop monitoring by combining multiple data sources on a single platform.
  - **Features:**
    - The framework supports **automated reporting, near real-time crop estimation** and early warning alerts linked to weather and crop stress conditions.
    - Through **its I-CARE field network**, the National Jute Board has facilitated large-scale **collection of geo-tagged field data using** the BHUVAN JUMP application.
    - **Weather analytics integrated** into the platform are supporting district-level early warning systems for rainfall variation, dry spells and temperature fluctuations.

KEY CLIMATE TERMS BEHIND THIS SUMMER'S EXTREME WEATHER

Western Disturbance

- It is an eastward-moving rain-bearing weather system that originates beyond Afghanistan and Iran.
- These systems gather moisture from the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea, and Arabian Sea.
- Western Disturbances are most common during the winter months from December to March, although they can also bring unseasonal rainfall during summer.
- These weather systems mainly affect: northwestern India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and parts of Central Asia such as Tajikistan.

What Does an El Niño Year Mean?

- El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate phenomenon involving changes in Pacific Ocean temperatures and atmospheric conditions that influence global weather patterns.
- ENSO has three phases:
  - El Niño – warm phase,
  - La Niña – cool phase, and
  - Neutral phase.
    - These cycles generally occur every 2 to 7 years.
- **What Happens During El Niño?**
  - During El Niño, the eastern Pacific Ocean becomes unusually warm, disrupting atmospheric circulation and weakening moisture-bearing winds reaching India.
  - El Niño conditions often lead to:
    - weak or delayed monsoons,
    - dry spells in agricultural regions, and
    - more frequent and intense heatwaves across India.

- **La Niña and Its Impact**
    - La Niña is the opposite phase, marked by cooler eastern Pacific waters. It generally strengthens India's southwest monsoon by enhancing moisture-bearing winds.
    - While La Niña often improves rainfall in India, stronger monsoons can also trigger flooding and crop damage during extreme conditions.

What is a Heat Wave?

- It is a prolonged period of unusually high temperatures significantly above the normal levels of a region.
- The IMD considers heat wave conditions when temperatures reach 40°C or more in plains, or 30°C or more in hilly regions.
- Regardless of normal temperatures:
    - a heat wave is declared at 45°C or above, and
    - a severe heat wave is declared at 47°C or above.

What is "Feels Like" Temperature?

- It estimates how hot or cold weather actually feels to the human body by considering humidity and wind conditions.
- Apparent temperature combines - actual air temperature, humidity levels, and wind conditions - to measure human thermal comfort.
- **Heat Index**
    - The "feels like" temperature is often expressed through the heat index, which combines temperature and relative humidity to estimate how hot conditions feel to the body.
- **Wind Chill Index**
    - Another type of apparent temperature is the wind chill index, which combines temperature and wind speed to show how cold weather feels when wind removes the body's insulating warm air layer.

PM MODI'S AUSTERITY CALL - FOREX RESERVES, GOLD IMPORTS, AND ECONOMIC PRESSURES

- India's external sector has come under significant stress amid rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia, surging crude oil prices, increasing gold imports, and high outward remittances for overseas travel.
- In this backdrop, Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently appealed to citizens to adopt austerity measures by reducing non-essential spending on imported goods such as gold and petroleum products and avoiding discretionary foreign travel.
- The government's concern stems from a sharp decline in India's foreign exchange reserves, which reportedly fell by nearly $38 billion within two months following the escalation of the West Asia conflict.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves and External Sector Pressure

- Foreign exchange reserves are assets held by the Reserve Bank of India in foreign currencies, gold reserves, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and reserve positions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- These reserves help maintain currency stability, support imports, and cushion the economy during external shocks.

Rising Gold Imports and Current Account Concerns

- Gold imports have emerged as a major contributor to India's external sector stress. India's gold import bill rose sharply to nearly $72 billion in 2025-26, almost doubling compared to $35 billion in 2022-23.
- India is the world's second-largest consumer of gold after China, with domestic demand largely driven by jewellery consumption, cultural preferences, and investment demand.
- However, heavy dependence on imported gold increases the current account deficit (CAD), which represents the gap between imports and exports of goods and services.

Liberalised Remittance Scheme and Overseas Spending

- Another major source of forex outflow has been spending under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- The RBI introduced LRS to allow resident individuals to remit money abroad for permissible transactions such as education, medical treatment, investment, and travel.
- Prime Minister Modi specifically highlighted:
    - Overseas tourism
    - Destination weddings abroad
    - Non-essential foreign travel
    - Luxury discretionary spending
- He urged citizens to postpone avoidable foreign travel for at least one year and prioritise domestic tourism and locally manufactured products.

Tourism Trends and Foreign Exchange Dynamics

- There is a widening imbalance between outbound and inbound tourism.
- India witnessed a record 32.71 million outbound travellers in 2025, while foreign tourist arrivals remained comparatively lower at 9.02 million.
- Foreign exchange earnings from tourism also reportedly declined by 6.6% during the year.
- Since tourism contributes significantly to employment and GDP generation, weaker inbound tourism further affects foreign exchange earnings.

Conclusion

- Prime Minister Modi's austerity appeal reflects growing concerns over India's external sector vulnerabilities amid rising imports, declining forex reserves, global geopolitical tensions, and capital outflows.
- Gold imports, overseas travel expenditure, and crude oil dependence have collectively intensified pressure on India's current account and currency stability.

A NEW START AGAINST NOISE POLLUTION

- Environmental concerns in India generally focus on **air pollution**, climate change, and water contamination, while **noise pollution** continues to receive far less attention despite its serious consequences.
- Excessive sound from traffic, political rallies, religious festivals, sports celebrations, and construction activities has become normalized in Indian society.
- However, increasing exposure to dangerous sound levels threatens human health, social well-being, and civic discipline.
- **Dangerous Sound Levels**
    - Scientific studies show that a pea whistle can generate **104–116 decibels** of sound pressure, while prolonged exposure above **85 decibels** may permanently damage hearing.
    - This reveals that many forms of public celebration exceed safe sound limits and pose significant health risks.

Health Effects of Noise Pollution

- **Hearing Loss and Physical Health**
    - Noise pollution is not merely an inconvenience; it is a major **public health issue**.
    - Continuous exposure to loud sound affects more than hearing.
    - It can lead to:
        - sleep disruption,
        - high stress levels,
        - cardiovascular problems,
        - increased blood pressure,
        - and mental fatigue.
- **Impact on Children and Urban Life**
    - Children living near highways, airports, and noisy neighbourhoods often experience reduced concentration and impaired cognitive development.

Failure of Governance and Enforcement

- **Weak Implementation of Laws**
  - India already has legal provisions under the **Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000**, which establish sound limits & designate silence zones near schools & hospitals. Despite this, enforcement remains weak & inconsistent.
  - Political rallies, religious events, and public celebrations frequently violate legal decibel limits without facing strict action.
- **Political and Administrative Challenges**
  - Poor monitoring infrastructure and limited police responsiveness allow violations to continue unchecked.
  - This situation reflects a broader governance failure where laws exist formally but lack effective implementation.

The Path Forward: Need for Public Awareness and Reform

- Reducing noise pollution requires:
  - stronger law enforcement,
  - improved monitoring systems,
  - public awareness campaigns,
  - and responsible political leadership.

Conclusion

- Noise pollution has become one of India's **most tolerated** environmental problems despite its harmful effects on hearing, health, sleep, and social well-being.
- The normalisation of loud public behaviour reflects weak governance, poor civic awareness, and political hesitation.
- **Stronger enforcement of laws**, better urban planning, and greater public responsibility are essential to create healthier and more peaceful living conditions.
- A balanced approach that respects both cultural expression and the **public's right to silence** is necessary for a more liveable society.