

## Current Affairs : 20 July 2022

### IN 2021, OVER 1.6 LAKH INDIANS RENOUNCED CITIZENSHIP

#### In News:

- According to data presented by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Lok Sabha, over 1.6 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2021 (for personal reasons).
- This is the highest number in the previous five years.
- Over 78,000 Indians acquired U.S. citizenship followed by Australian, Canada, U.K. etc.

#### Citizenship in India:

##### What is citizenship?

- A state's population is divided into two categories - citizens and non-citizens. A state's citizens have full civil and political rights, while a non-citizen has no such rights.
- **For example**, under the Indian constitution, **certain fundamental rights** are available only to the citizens, namely - Article 15, Article 16, Article 19, Article 29 and 30.
- Also, the right to vote and become members of the union and state legislatures are exclusive to Indian citizens.

#### Constitutional provisions relating to citizenship in India:

Article No.	Subject-matter
5.	Citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution
6.	Rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan
7.	Rights of citizenship of certain migrants to Pakistan
8.	Rights of citizenship of certain persons of Indian origin residing outside India
9.	Persons voluntarily acquiring citizenship of a foreign State not to be citizens
10.	Continuance of the rights of citizenship
11.	Parliament to regulate the right of citizenship by law

The Indian Constitution establishes only a single citizenship, namely Indian citizenship.

- This means there is no separate state citizenship (USA, Switzerland, etc., on the other hand, adopted the system of double citizenship).

- The Indian constitution (Part II - Article 5-11) doesn't prescribe a permanent provision relating to citizenship in India.
- It simply describes categories of persons who are deemed to be citizens of India on the day the Indian constitution was commenced (Jan 26, 1950).

- It leaves citizenship to be regulated by law made by the Parliament of India (Article 11).

## Persons deemed to be citizens of India on Jan 26, 1950:

- There are four categories of such persons -
  - **Citizenship by domicile (Article 5):** A person who was born in India or either of the person's parents was born in India, etc.
  - **Citizenship of migrants to India from Pakistan (Article 6).**
  - **Citizenship of migrants of Pakistan (Article 7).**
  - Citizenship of persons of Indian origin residing outside India (Article 8).

## The Citizenship Act, 1955:

- **About the Act:**
  - A comprehensive law dealing with citizens was passed by Parliament of India in accordance with the powers vested in it by Article 11 of the Constitution.
  - The provisions of the Act may be broadly divided into three parts, acquisition of citizenship, termination of citizenship and supplemental provisions.
- **Acquisition of Citizenship:** The Act provides five modes of acquiring the citizenship of India. These are -
  - **By Birth:** Every person born in India on or after January 26, 1950 but before June 30, 1987, shall be a citizen of India by birth.
  - **By Descent:** A person born outside India on or after January 26, 1950, shall be citizen of India by descent if his father or mother is a citizen of India at the time of his birth.
  - **By Registration:** Any person who is not already an Indian citizen by virtue of the provisions of the Constitution or those of this Act can acquire citizenship by registration.
  - **By Naturalisation:** Any person who does not come under any of the categories mentioned above can acquire Indian citizenship by naturalisation if his application for the same has been accepted by the Government of India and certificate is granted to him to that effect.
  - **By Incorporation of Territory:** If any territory becomes part of India, the Government of India, may specify the persons who shall be citizens of India by reason of their connection with that territory.

- **Termination of Citizenship:** The Act envisages three situations under which a citizen of India may lose his Indian nationality. These are -
  - **By Renunciation:** If any citizen of India who is also a national of another country renounces his Indian citizenship through a declaration in the prescribed manner, s/he ceases to be an Indian citizen of registration of such declaration.
  - **By Termination:** If any person who acquired Indian citizenship by naturalisation, registration or otherwise, or s/he voluntarily acquired the citizenship of another country at any time between January 26, 1950 and December 30, 1955, the date of commencement of this Act.
  - **By Deprivation:** The Central Government is empowered to deprive a citizen of his/her citizenship under the act. But, this power of the Government may not be used in the case of every citizen, it applies only to those who acquired Indian citizenship by naturalisation, etc.

## **The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019:**

- **About:**
  - The Act seeks to amend the definition of illegal immigrant for Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhist and Christian immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who have lived in India without documentation.
  - They will be granted fast track Indian citizenship in 5 years (11 years earlier).
  - It also provides for cancellation of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration where the OCI card-holder has violated any provision of the Citizenship Act or any other law in force.
- **Who is eligible?**
  - The CAA, 2019 applies to those (Hindu, Sikh, Parsi, Buddhist and Christian immigrants) who were forced or compelled to seek shelter in India due to persecution on the ground of religion. It aims to protect such people from proceedings of illegal migration.
  - The cut-off date for citizenship is December 31, 2014 which means the applicant should have entered India on or before that date.
  - The act will not apply to areas covered by the Constitution's sixth schedule, which deals with autonomous tribal-dominated regions in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
  - Additionally, the act will not apply to states that have an inner-line permit regime (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram).

## EIA RULES AMENDED: PROJECTS NEAR LOC, THOSE OF STRATEGIC VALUE WON'T NEED GREEN NOD

### In News:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Rules.
- The amendment exempts highway projects of strategic and defence importance, which are 100 km from the Line of Control, among other locations, from an environmental clearance before construction.

### Environment Clearance Process:

- Environmental Clearance is mainly conducted for the assessment of the impacts of a project on the environment and people and also tries to reduce the impact of the project.
- In India, there are 39 categories of projects for which the environment clearance process is available.

### Environment Impact Assessment:

- Environment Impact Assessment or EIA can be defined as the study to predict the effect of a proposed activity/project on the environment.
- In 1994, for the first time under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the EIA notification was formulated in India.
- It made environmental clearance mandatory for expansion, modernisation and setting up of new projects.

### Timeline for Environment Clearance:

- The timelines prescribed in the EIA Notification, 206 for various stages of EC are:
  - 60 days specified for prescribing the Terms of Reference;
  - 45 days for public consultation;
  - 60 days for appraisal; and

- 45 days thereafter for communicating the decision to project proponent.

## News Summary:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified amendments to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Rules.
- One of the amendments exempts highway projects of strategic and defence importance, which are 100 km from the Line of Control, among other locations, from an environmental clearance before construction.
- In its latest amendment to the Rules, the Ministry has made several exemptions to gaining this environmental clearance.

## Other Amendments include:

- **w.r.t. projects of strategic importance**
  - The notification deems it necessary to exempt projects of strategic importance (for e.g. Building highways near border areas) from the requirement of environment clearance, subject to specified Standard Operating Procedure along with standard environmental safeguards for such projects.
- **w.r.t. Thermal power plants**
  - As long as the fuel-mix is eco-friendly, thermal power plants up to 15 MW based on biomass or non-hazardous municipal solid waste using auxiliary fuel such as coal, lignite or petroleum products up to 15 per cent have been exempted.
- **w.r.t. Ports**
  - Taking into account issues of livelihood security of fishermen involved at fish handling ports and harbours, and the less pollution potential of these ports and harbours compared to others, increasing the threshold of ports which exclusively deals in fish handling, and caters to small fishermen, will be exempted from environmental clearance.
- **w.r.t. Toll plazas**
  - Toll plazas that need more width for installation of toll collection booths to cater to a large number of vehicles are exempted.
- **w.r.t. Airport terminals**

- Expansion activities in existing airports related to terminal building expansion without increase in the airport's existing area, rather than expansion of runways, are also exempted.
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## ₹ BREACHES 80/\$ FOR 1ST TIME, FRESH ECO CHALLENGES LOOM

### In News:

- The rupee breached the 80 level versus the dollar for the first time as crude oil prices rose in the international market, posing a fresh challenge for authorities.

### Falling rupee: Meaning

- When it is reported that the rupee has fallen to a low of 80 per dollar, it basically means that one needs Rs 80 to buy a single dollar.
- This is important when buying not just American goods but also other goods and services (say crude oil).
- In a free-market economy, the exchange rate is decided by the supply and demand for rupees and dollars.
- If, in India, demand for dollars is more in comparison to the demand for rupee, the exchange rate will fall or weaken for rupee and rise or strengthen for dollar.
- However, in India, the market does not fully determine the exchange rate.
- RBI occasionally intervenes in the foreign exchange (forex) market to ensure that the rupee's price does not fluctuate too much.

### Reasons for falling rupee

- The conflict has kept crude oil prices persistently high over the \$100 level for five months, which widened the current account deficit.
- Simultaneously, foreign institutional investors have been in an exit mode, selling nearly \$30 billion of equities this year.
- This has also been triggered by the sharp interest rate hikes by the US Fed in its fight against over-four-decade-high inflation.
- Experts believe the rupee's weakening is mainly linked to India's increasing trade deficit (more imports than exports, so higher demand for dollars) and the flight of FIIs.

- Rupee has seen the fourth largest depreciation since the lockdown.

## Impact

**A WEAKER RUPEE IMPACTS YOU IN MANY WAYS...  
HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SOFTEN THE BLOW**

The rupee has had a weakening bias because of India's consistent current account deficit (imports exceed exports). Corrections in exchange rate happen sporadically and that is when Indians feel the pain. But the impact is not uniform and depends on the demand & supply position in various sectors...

If You Are...	What Can You Do As...		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>A consumer</b>   Most of us who are already facing the brunt of inflation will see fresh price surges on all imported items</li> <li>&gt; <b>An exporter</b>   You can now sell more price-sensitive products by reducing rates. Alternatively, you may get more dollars on the same number of sales</li> <li>&gt; <b>A student in foreign college</b>   You will need to draw a larger amount to pay the same fees</li> <li>&gt; <b>An outbound tourist</b>   Many currencies have depreciated against the dollar, but you will still pay more as flights &amp; hotel bookings are usually done in dollars</li> <li>&gt; <b>A freelancer</b>   An assignment billed in dollars will get you more money. But you may have competition as some other currencies have weakened more</li> <li>&gt; <b>An Indian investor with \$ deposits</b>   Value of holdings has gone up 7% in rupee terms</li> <li>&gt; <b>An investor in US stocks</b>   Dow Jones index has fallen 14% in 2022, but in rupee terms the losses are lower at about 8%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>A consumer</b>   Identify import substitutes. If not buying for the brand, you will find local alternatives</li> <li>&gt; <b>An outbound student</b>   Visit your dentist, go for a haircut, shop for clothes and avail other such services before leaving. Look for cheaper remittance services</li> <li>&gt; <b>An outbound tourist</b>   If destination country's currency has depreciated more (like Turkey) you may get better deals by booking directly in that country</li> <li>&gt; <b>An investor in dollars</b>   Wait for rate hike cycle to end. Rates have shot up but are likely to go up further, which means bonds and equities may get cheaper</li> <li>&gt; <b>A business owner</b>   Bargain hard with int'l suppliers as they will be able to cut prices due to depreciation</li> <li>&gt; <b>A policymaker</b>   Take countercyclical measures to encourage foreign investments by lifting restrictions</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>What Is RBI Doing To Check Slide...</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p><b>1</b> Selling large amounts (\$40bn+) of dollars to support rupee</p> <p><b>2</b> Raising interest rates (90bps in 2022) to make Indian investment attractive</p> </td> <td> <p><b>3</b> Removing reserve restrictions on dollar deposits with banks</p> <p><b>4</b> Allowing traders to make settlements in rupees to reduce dollar dependence</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>1</b> Selling large amounts (\$40bn+) of dollars to support rupee</p> <p><b>2</b> Raising interest rates (90bps in 2022) to make Indian investment attractive</p>	<p><b>3</b> Removing reserve restrictions on dollar deposits with banks</p> <p><b>4</b> Allowing traders to make settlements in rupees to reduce dollar dependence</p>
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- It could increase cost of imports, raise overseas education costs, make foreign loans costly for companies and has the potential to stoke inflation, which is already ruling at 7%.
- **Impact on inflation management**
  - The most crucial impact would be on inflation as the country imports nearly 80% of its crude oil needs.
  - This would mean that imports would become costlier and travel through the value chain to raise input costs.
  - While retail inflation has shown some signs of moderation in recent weeks, the rupee depreciation may impact the overall inflation situation.
- **Impact on current account deficit**
  - Since a large proportion of India's imports are dollar-denominated, these imports will get costlier.
  - Costlier imports, in turn, will widen the trade deficit as well as the current account deficit, which, in turn, will put pressure on the exchange rate.
- **Positive impact**
  - One positive impact could be that remittances from overseas could become attractive.

- A fall in the rupee can also benefit India's exporters - unless they import raw materials, which would become more expensive.

## **News Summary**

- The rupee fell below the psychological level of 80 to 80.05 against the US dollar intra-day amid tightening monetary conditions and risk-off sentiments.

## **Breaching 80 level is significant**

- Breaching the 80-level mark is seen as a significant event as this was a psychological level at which the central bank had been defending the currency.
- Also, sellers had been holding back and waiting for this level. Once rupee breached this level, it triggered a round of dollar sales.

## **Why Dollars & roubles are winners of the Ukraine war?**

- Since Russia invaded Ukraine, Russian roubles and US dollars have gained in value against most other currencies of the world.
- The value of rouble increased as Russia demanded to be paid in its own currency instead of euros or dollars, to sidestep western sanctions.
- On the other hand, the dollar gained as Europe was forced to shop for oil markets that demanded the US currency.
- Also, the US Fed's decision to fight domestic inflation with higher interest rates has triggered a mass departure of investments to America. This increased the value of dollar further.

## **War affected the rich world's currencies**

- In July, the Japanese yen hit a 24-year low and the euro fell to its lowest point in the past 20 years.
- The US dollar gained more than 5% against the British pound.
- Meanwhile, the Indian rupee grew stronger against many rich world currencies but depreciated against the Chinese yuan, the Brazilian Real and the rouble.
- Overall, the US dollar has appreciated against all currencies, aided by the fact that it is the currency in which most international transactions are done and the bulk of foreign reserves maintained by most currencies.
- As per the IMF's estimate, the US dollar constitutes about 55% of global forex reserves.



## What is being done?

- Earlier, in the month the RBI further liberalised norms to boost inflows of foreign exchange, including doubling the borrowing limit under the External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) route.
  - However, experts suggest following ways:
    - The RBI should focus on containing inflation, as it is legally mandated to do,
    - the government (which is in charge of the fiscal policy) should contain its borrowings”.
    - Higher borrowings (fiscal deficit) by the government eat up domestic savings and force the rest of the economic agents to borrow from abroad.
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## NATIONAL CULTURE FUND (NCF)

**Since inception, NCF has completed 52 projects with various donors.**

### About:

- Government of India has set up National Culture Fund (NCF) as a Trust on 28th November, 1996 under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890.
  - NCF is managed by a (Governing) Council and an Executive Committee.
  - The Council is chaired by the Union Minister of Culture and has a strength of 21 including 15 non-official members representing various fields including corporate sector, private foundations and not-for-profit voluntary organizations.
  - The aim of National Culture Fund (NCF) is to establish and nurture partnerships in the field of Culture and Heritage with private and public sectors, government, non-government agencies, private institutions and foundations and mobilize resources for the restoration, conservation, protection and development of India’s rich, natural, tangible and intangible heritage.
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## JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

**Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model.**

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### About:

- Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, this project will improve the utilization in crane and berth productivity of the terminal.
- The total handling of JNPT will increase to 1.8 million

Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) from the present handling capacity of 1.5 million TEUs in 2020-21.

- The Minister said terminal will also be handling Ro-Ro vessels which will not only lower the logistics cost and reduce transit time but will also contribute in reducing congestion on roads and promoting towards clean environment.

## WEEKLY IRON AND FOLIC ACID SUPPLEMENTATION (WIFS) PROGRAMME

The government has provided four crore 14 lakh Iron Folic Acid Supplementation to Adolescents under the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme in the last financial year.



### About:

- The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar stated this in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.
- Pawar highlighted that over seven thousand Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics have been established in the country and fifty-two lakh Adolescent clients received counseling and clinical services

during 2021-22.

- The Minister stressed that the Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene is implemented to promote menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years. He said, nearly thirty-five lakh adolescent girls have been covered every month under this scheme.

## RULES FOR WORK FROM HOME FOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

The Department of Commerce has notified a new Rule - Work from Home in Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 across all Special Economic Zones.



**About:**

- The notification was issued on demand from the industry for making a provision for a country-wide uniform Work From Home policy across all Special Economic Zones.
  - As per the new notification, Work from Home may be extended to maximum 50 percent of total employees including contractual employees of the unit.
  - There is flexibility granted to Development Commissioner of Special Economic Zones to approve a higher number of employees for any bona-fide reason to be recorded in writing. Work From Home is now allowed for a maximum period of one year.
  - However, it may be further extended for a period of one year at a time by the Development Commissioner at the request of units.
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