

### FLAG CODE TWEAK TO CUT TIRANGA PRICE, HELP GOVT'S CAMPAIGN

#### In news:

- The government is expecting costs of the tricolour to come down as a result of the change made to the Flag Code of India 2002.
- The change allows machine-made polyester, other than hand-spun and handwoven khadi, to be used in the production of the national flag.
- The change to the Flag Code is expected to provide a fillip to the government's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' mass campaign.

#### Indian Flag

##### Historical background:

- The first national flag is said to have been hoisted on August 7, 1906, at the Parsee Bagan Square, near Lower Circular Road, in Calcutta (now Kolkata).
  - It consisted of three horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green.
- Later, in 1921, freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya met Mahatma Gandhi and proposed a basic design of the flag, consisting of two red and green bands.
- After undergoing several changes, the Tricolour was adopted as our national flag at a Congress Committee meeting in Karachi in 1931.

##### Regulations governing display of National Flag

- The earliest rules for the display of the national flag were originally governed by the provisions of:
  - The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and
  - The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.
- In 2002, the Flag Code of India came into effect which allowed the unrestricted display of the Tricolour as long as the honour and dignity of the flag were being respected.
  - The flag code did not replace the pre-existing rules governing the correct display of the flag.
    - It was, however, an effort to bring together all the previous laws, conventions and practices.
  - For the sake of convenience, Flag Code of India, 2002, has been divided into three parts:

- a general description of the tricolour;
- rules on display of the flag by public and private bodies and educational institutions; and
- rules for display of the flag by governments and government bodies.
- In December 2021, amendment was made to the Flag code 2002.
- Earlier, as per section 1.2 of Flag code only flags made of hand spun and hand-woven khadi were permitted to be used.
- The amendment to the Flag Code, however, says the national flag can now be made of “hand spun and hand woven or machine-made, cotton, polyester, wool, silk khadi bunting.

### **Instances of alleged flag code violations in recent times**

- In 2007, a legal notice was served on Tendulkar after a video surfaced in which he was seen cutting a cake with the Tricolour on it.
- In 2021, Police in Uttar Pradesh’s Pilibhit district booked the mother and brother of a farmer, who had died during the farmers’ agitation in Delhi, after his body was allegedly draped in the national flag.
- Section 3.22 of the Flag Code reads: “The Flag shall not be used as a drapery in any form whatsoever except in State/Military/Central Paramilitary Forces funerals hereinafter provided.”
- The flag can only be used during a funeral if it is accorded the status of a state funeral.
- Apart from police and armed forces, state funerals are held when people who are holding or have held office of President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Minister, Chief Minister pass away.

### **Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign**

- This campaign is scheduled to be launched on August 15, 2022, under which people will be encouraged to hoist the national flag over their houses.
- It is aimed at invoking feelings of pride and patriotism among people and promoting awareness about the Indian flag.
- This campaign is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and is targeting the sale and hoisting of at least 20 crore national flags across the country.
- Flag-making is expected to pick up on a mass scale at self-help groups that had pitched in with making masks and PPE kits during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

The Election Commission of India on July 5 issued the notification for the election of the Vice President of India. The term of office of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu comes to an end on August 10.



### About:

- Article 63 of the Constitution states that “there shall be a Vice-President of India”.
- Under Article 64, the Vice-President “shall be ex officio Chairman of the Council of the States” (Rajya Sabha).
- Article 65 says that “in the event of the occurrence of any vacancy in the office of the President by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, the Vice-President shall act as President until the date on which a new President...enters upon his office”.

### Election of the Vice-President

- Article 66 lays down the process of the election of the Vice-President.
- It says the Vice-President “shall be elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot”.
- Article 66(3) says “No person shall be eligible for election as Vice-President unless he — (a) is a citizen of India; (b) has completed the age of thirty-five years; and (c) is qualified for election as a member of the Council of States”.

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## WHEAT CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN INDIA

Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh have demanded more wheat in place of rice and asked the Centre to restore their original allocations under the National Food Security Act (NFSA),

2013, or change the wheat-rice allocation ratio that was revised by the Union Food Ministry in May.



### What was this revision?

- On May 14, Food Secretary announced that “after consulting with the states”, the Centre has reallocated some quantities by changing ratios of wheat and rice under the NFSA.
- For example, states getting wheat and rice at a 60:40 ratio will now get it at 40:60, while those getting allocations at 75:25 would now get these at 60:40. States where rice allocation has been zero will continue to get wheat.
- For small states, NE states and special category states, allocation has not been changed. According to the Food Ministry, the move would save about 61 lakh tonnes of wheat over the remaining 10 months (June-March) of the current financial year.

### Which states are affected by the revision?

- Wheat allocation under NFSA was revised downward for 10 states: Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- These states account for about 55.14 crore (67%) of the 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the NFSA.
- Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, which have demanded restoration of their original allocations, are primarily wheat-consuming states.

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## NOMINATED MEMBERS OF THE RAJYA SABHA

Legendary athlete P T Usha and music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were among prominent personalities nominated to Rajya Sabha.

### About:

- Philanthropist and administrator of the Dharmasthala

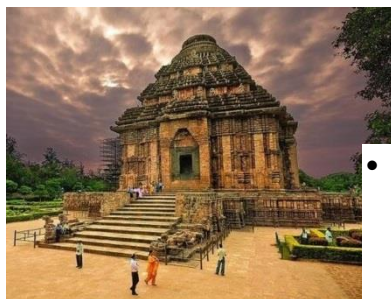


temple Veerendra Heggade and noted screen writer V Vijayendra Prasad were also nominated to the Upper House of Parliament.

- The Rajya Sabha had vacancies in the nominated category.
  - Twelve members are nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India for six-years term for their contributions towards arts, literature, sciences, and social services. This right has been bestowed upon the President according to the Fourth Schedule (Articles 4(1) and 80(2)) of the Constitution of India.
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## KONARK SUN TEMPLE

**Visitors to the Sun Temple in Konark, Odisha, will soon be able to see the newly carved stones on the northern side of the jagmohan, or the assembly hall, of the World Heritage Site.**



### About:

- The pilot project started in 2019 with a study of the stones at the temple and an analysis of the historic drawings and photos from the 19th century onwards.
  - Starting in 1901, the British government had placed plain stones across the site and filled the jagmohan with sand to preserve the structure of the 13th century temple. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) carried out conservation works after the site was handed over to it in 1936.
  - According to the National Conservation Policy (2014), Restoration may be undertaken on monuments with high architectural value and only in parts of a monument wherein there are missing geometric or floral patterns, or structural members of a monument which have been damaged recently.
  - Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century CE Sun temple at Konark about 35 kilometres (22 mi) northeast from Puri city on the coastline in Puri district, Odisha. The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga dynasty about 1250 CE.
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## CAN BORIS JOHNSON BE FORCED OUT, AND HOW IS A SUCCESSOR CHOSEN?

### In News:

- Boris Johnson has refused to quit as British Prime Minister despite a growing number of resignations from his scandal-hit government.

### Electoral system of UK

- The UK is divided into 650 constituencies and each constituency is represented by one MP elected in the House of Commons (the UK's lower chamber of parliament).
- It follows first past the post system to decide the winner in each constituency.
- The members of the upper chamber of the parliament, the House of Lords, are not elected. The Queen on the advice of the prime minister appoints them.
- To govern, a winning party needs to win more than half of the 650 seats.
- The leader of the winning party is appointed by the Queen as prime minister and forms a Cabinet of senior politicians.

### News Summary

- Embattled UK PM Boris Johnson was fighting for his political life as the resignations of junior ministers, parliamentary aides and others continued to mount.
- At least 32 lawmakers have left the government so far in less than 24 hours and it is believed that the British leader no longer has their confidence.

### Reasons behind the calls demanding resignation of British PM

- In his short stint as the Prime Minister and even before, Boris Johnson has courted controversy many times.
  - This ranges from the use of aggressively sexist rhetoric to accepting secret donations for the refurbishment of his private residence at 11 Downing Street.
- The highly damaging "Partygate" scandal then blew up and in April 2022 Johnson became the first PM found to have broken the law while in office.

- 'Partygate' refers to a series of lockdown gatherings held in and around the official residence of the PM during the height of the first series of total lockdowns.
- The latest controversy involved accusations of sexual misconduct and excessive drinking by Conservative deputy chief whip.

### **How could Johnson be forced to resign?**

- Johnson could decide by himself that he has lost the support of too many members of his party and the cabinet and resign.
  - Several more members of the cabinet could quit and call on Johnson to go, almost certainly forcing him to resign.
  - If lawmakers become successful in changing the party rules so they can hold another vote of confidence sooner than is currently allowed.
    - The confidence vote is a secret ballot of all Conservative MPS. The Prime Minister must win a majority of votes to continue as leader.
    - If he does not, then he will lose the leadership and cannot stand in the ensuing leadership contest.
    - As per the Conservative party law, once a person wins a confidence vote, he is theoretically safe in his job, and cannot be challenged again in another confidence vote for 12 months.
      - Johnson had won the confidence vote in June 2022.
    - However, the 1922 Committee reserves the right to change the rules and thus shorten the interval between confidence votes.
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