

LOK ADALAT SETTLES 81 LAKH CASES IN ONE DAY

In News:

- The third National Lok Adalat, held across India (except in Delhi) under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and presided over by Chief Justice of India (CJI)-designate UU Lalit, recently resolved 81 lakh cases.
- According to the NALSA, the trial courts, which have a huge pendency of 4.2 crore cases, were relieved of 2.2 crore cases this year through three National Lok Adalats.

Lok Adalat:

Background:

- NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, and the Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA.
- It aims to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organise Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- Hence, the Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

About:

- It is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, a forum where disputes or cases are settled or compromised amicably.
- In a nutshell, it is a form of party-based (parties involved in the dispute) justice in which people and judges work together to resolve problems by discussion, persuasion and mutual consent, in order to provide affordable and timely justice.

Organization of Lok Adalat:

- The State authority or district authority or the High Court legal services committee or Tehsil legal services committee may organize Lok Adalat at such intervals and places as it thinks fit.
- National Lok Adalats are held at regular intervals, with Lok Adalats held throughout the country on a single day, in all courts from the Supreme Court to the Taluk Levels, where cases are disposed of in large numbers.

Composition:

- Every Lok Adalat organised for an area shall consist of -
 - Serving or retired judicial officers.
 - Other persons as may be specified by the state/district authority or the High Court/Tehsil legal services committee.
- The persons deciding the cases in the Lok Adalats are called the Members of the Lok Adalats. Role played by these members -
 - They have the role of statutory conciliators only and do not have any judicial role.
 - This means, they can only persuade (and shall not pressurise or coerce) the parties.
 - As a result, the Lok Adalat will not decide the subject on its own initiative, but rather on the basis of a compromise or settlement reached between the parties.

Types of cases at Lok Adalat:

- Transfer or change of land title cases, compoundable criminal offences, family disputes, encroachment on forest lands, land acquisition disputes, motor accident claims and cases which are not sub-judice.
- The Lok Adalat shall have no jurisdiction in respect of any matter or case relating to an offence not compoundable under any law.
 - Compoundable offences are those offences in which the parties involved can effect a compromise.

Powers:

- Lok Adalat has jurisdiction to determine and to arrive at a compromise or settlement between the parties to a dispute in respect of -
 - Any case pending before the court.
 - Any matter which is falling within the jurisdiction of and is not brought before any court for which the Lok Adalat is organised (pre-litigation stage).
- The award made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a decree of a civil court.
- Such award is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.

Court fee:

- There is **no court fee** payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.
 - The court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints or petition is also refunded back to the parties if a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is later settled.
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DROUGHT IN ENGLAND

The government formally declared parts of England to be in drought as the country faces a period of prolonged hot and dry weather.



About:

- **Where has a drought been declared?** Devon and Cornwall; Solent and South Downs; Kent and South London; Herts and North London; East Anglia; Thames; Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire; and East Midlands.
 - **What happens when a drought is declared?**
 - All water companies are required to have a drought plan in place setting out what restrictions they may put in place on their customers in the event of a drought.
 - Water companies will implement these plans, which will include temporary water use restrictions such as hosepipe bans to reduce the demand for water.
 - They can also apply for drought orders and permits which legally allow more flexibility in managing water resources including abstracting more water from rivers, reservoirs or aquifers.
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‘CHINESE’ MANJHA

Every year, as Independence Day inches closer, Delhi’s streets become witness to deaths and injuries because of the ‘Chinese’ manjha.



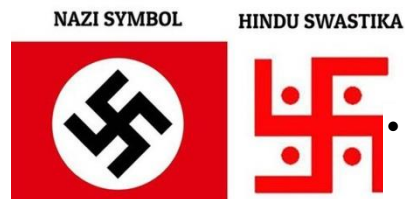
About:

- The Chinese manjha is a glass-coated synthetic string used to fly kites. It is made of monofilament fishing lines.

- monofilament strings are deadly because they are very hard to break. They are made by melting and mixing polymers, and after the strings are formed, they are then coated with glass. Stretched tight, monofilament strings have the ability to injure humans and animals alike.

SWASTIKA

Over the past week, there has been renewed discussion in media reports on the swastika, the ancient symbol that was once used across the world, but which came to be associated in the 20th century with the murderous Nazi ideology of hate and antisemitism, particularly in the Western imagination.



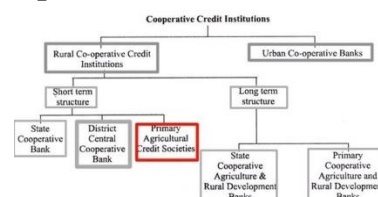
About:

- On August 11, New South Wales became the second state in Australia (after Victoria in June), to criminalise the display of the swastika, while allowing its use for educational and religious purposes for Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists.
- The swastika has a civilisational presence in India. The word swastika has a Sanskrit root, which means good fortune or well-being, and it has been an auspicious symbol for Hindus over many millennia.
- Unlike the black hakenkreuz of the Nazis, the swastika used by Indians is usually red or yellow in colour, is not tilted to the right, and has dots at each corner, which are believed to represent the four Vedas.

PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (PACS)

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has said that the government will bring model by-laws to govern all Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in the country.

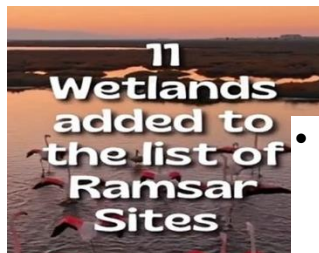
About:



- He said, the sick and defunct PACS should be revived or taken for liquidation.
- Mr Shah was addressing a national conference on rural cooperative banks organised by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB) at Vignan Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Describing the PACS as pillars of the cooperative movement, Mr Shah called for strengthening of the PACS by diversifying them into various other activities.
- Mr Shah stressed the need to establish more than 2 lakh new PACS across the country to achieve the target of providing agri-finance worth 10 lakh crore rupees through cooperatives.

RAMSAR SITES

India has added 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13 lakh 26 thousand 677 Hectare in the country in the 75th year of Independence.



About:

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change said, the 11 new sites include, four in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971.
- India signed it on 1st February 1982. During 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites, however, during 2014 to 2022, the country has added 49 new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.
- Tamil Nadu has maximum number of Ramsar sites which is 14, followed by Uttar Pradesh which has 10 numbers of Ramsar sites.

SALINE WATER LANTERN

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled India's first Saline Water Lantern which uses the sea water to power the specially designed LED lamps.



About:

- The Minister visited the SAGAR ANVESHIKA, a Coastal Research Vessel, operated and used by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai to review the progress of the implementation of the Deep Ocean Mission of India.
- The saline Water Lantern will bring “Ease of Living” to the fishing community living along the 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India. Saline water-powered Roshini LED lamps will also boost and supplement Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s UJALA scheme.
- Jitendra Singh hoisted tricolour on board the ship and extended the campaign of ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’, to ‘Har Jahaj Tiranga’.