

NATIONAL FLAG

The National Flag, which is flying high across India as the nation celebrates 75 years of freedom, was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on July 22, 1947.



About:

- According to the official record of the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad, who was in the Chair, announced that the first item on the agenda was “a Motion by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru about the Flag”.
- Thereafter, Nehru rose to move the following Resolution: Resolved that the National Flag of India shall be horizontal tricolour of deep Saffron (Kesari), white and dark green in equal proportion.
- In the centre of the white band, there shall be a Wheel in navy blue to represent the Charkha. The design of the Wheel shall be that of the Wheel (Chakra) which appears on the abacus of the Sarnath Lion Capital of Asoka.
- The ratio of the width to the length of the Flag shall ordinarily be 2:3.

PANCH PRAN

On the country's 76th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said corruption and nepotism are two main challenges that are not confined to politics alone and asked people to have 'nafrat' (hatred) for these evils and focus on 'Panch Pran' (five resolves) to ensure a developed India in the next 25 years.

Panch Pran of Amrit Kaal



About:

- He spelled out "Panch Pran" (five resolves) to fulfil freedom fighters' dreams for the country at India's independence centenary by 2047.
- He said we should focus on the five pledges -- a resolve of developed India; removing any trace of the colonial mindset; taking pride in our legacy; our strength of unity; and

fulfilling the duties of citizens with honesty, which should be done by the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers as well.

PARTITION HORRORS REMEMBRANCE DAY

India commemorated August 14, as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.



About:

- The commemoration was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this date last year. This date also marks Pakistan's independence day.
 - The Partition is acknowledged as one of the most violent and abrupt displacements in the recent history of the world.
 - Estimates of the numbers of those killed vary; according to the official document, it could be between 500,000 to over a million, but "the generally accepted figure stands at around 500,000".
-

CITIZEN SURVEY FOR NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has urged the citizens to participate in the Citizen Survey for National Curriculum Framework for developing a new curriculum.



About:

- He said, a dynamic National Curriculum Framework in line with the National Education Policy- 2020 will play a major role in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat.
- Ministry of Education has invited suggestions of the public through an online public consultation survey for the formulation of National Curriculum Framework and subsequently design of syllabus, textbooks and other instructional materials.

- The Government has announced the National Education Policy in July 2020, which recommends quality improvement of the system of education through the development of a National Curriculum Framework.
- The process of the Framework has been started through the constitution of the District Consultation Committees, State Focus Groups, and State Steering Committee, National Focus Groups and National Steering Committee.

ADVANCED TOWED ARTILLERY GUN SYSTEM (ATAGS)

In a first, an indigenously developed howitzer gun, ATAG, became part of the 21-gun salute during the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort.



About:

- Developed by the DRDO, the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) was used alongside the traditional British-origin '25 Pounders' artillery guns.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also referred to the gun while speaking about the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of the Centre during his Independence Day speech.
- The ATAGS is an indigenous 155 mm x 52 calibre howitzer gun developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with its Pune-based facility Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) being the nodal agency.
- The ATAGS project was started in 2013 by DRDO to replace older guns in service in the Indian Army with a modern 155 mm artillery gun.
- Howitzers is an umbrella term for a category of long-range artillery guns.

WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

In his ninth Independence Day address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to women freedom fighters for showing the world the true meaning of India's "nari shakti".



About:

- **Rani Laxmibai:** The queen of the princely state of Jhansi, Rani Laxmibai is known for her role in the First War of India's Independence in 1857.
 - **Jhalkari Bai:** A soldier in Rani Laxmibai's women's army, Durga Dal, she rose to become one of the queen's most trusted advisers.
 - **Durga Bhabhi:** A member of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha, she helped Bhagat Singh escape in disguise from Lahore after the 1928 killing of British police officer John P Saunders.
 - **Rani Gaidinliu:** Born in 1915 in present-day Manipur, Rani Gaidinliu was a Naga spiritual and political leader who fought the British. She joined the Heraka religious movement which later became a movement to drive out the British.
-

TALC

Pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson (J&J) announced that it would discontinue the sale of its talc-based baby powder globally in 2023.



About:

- The announcement came amidst the tens of thousands of lawsuits from women who claim that the product caused them to have ovarian cancer, due to the alleged contamination of asbestos, a known carcinogen.
- Talc is the softest known mineral and is mined from underground deposits. Chemically, it is hydrous magnesium silicate, according to the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and is used in a variety of cosmetic and personal care products, like baby powder, lipstick, eyeshadow and foundation.
- When reduced to a fine powder, it is able to absorb moisture and reduce friction which keeps the skin dry, helps prevent rashes, stops makeup from caking and generally helps improve the feel and texture of a product.

Does it cause cancer?

- Asbestos, the name for another group of naturally occurring silicate minerals, can also be found near talc deposits.
- There is the potential for contamination of talc with asbestos. Asbestos has been used in construction and manufacturing, and is known to cause lung cancer, ovarian cancer, mesothelioma and other health conditions.

CJI-TO-BE: IMPOSE COSTS TO CUT FRIVOLOUS LITIGATION

In News:

- Uday Umesh Lalit - Chief Justice of India (CJI)-designate, has stated that the time has come to devise a mechanism to impose mandatory costs on litigants who submit frivolous cases before courts.
- He also stated that the Supreme Court gives equal justice to the affluent and poor, contradicting the belief that cases involving the rich and powerful take precedence.
- On the other hand, the current CJI (N.V. Ramana) stated in his Independence Day address those fundamental duties in the Constitution are meant to guide citizens in engineering a social transformation rather than fulfill a "pedantic or technical" purpose.

News Summary:

Views expressed by CJI-designate:

'CASES OF RICH & FAMOUS DRAW ATTENTION'	
<p>On Frivolous Litigation The constitutional courts can devise a system by which genuine PILs, entertained by the court, would be conducted by court-appointed amicus curiae, irrespective of the petitioner</p> <p>On High-Profile Cases The cases of the rich and famous attract the attention of the media and general public... But has anyone from the media ever given</p> 	<p>attention to the cases filed in Ram Lal or Shyam Lal? Every day we decide many cases filed by commoners... no one not</p> <p>On Youth Vs Experience We as judges may give a little more time to a senior advocate because he brings in experience, knowledge and court craft. This does not mean we do not hear young or inexperienced advocates. The primary function of the Supreme Court is to lay down the law</p> <p>—Justice UU Lalit CJI-Designate</p>

- The Supreme Court's primary job, as prescribed by the Constitution, is to resolve complex constitutional disputes.
- SC invented the idea of public interest litigation (PIL), which is unique to India.
- This was to allow a public-spirited individual to bring to the court's attention towards the violations of fundamental rights of the destitute and deprived who lack the means to approach the judiciary for redress of their grievances.

- However, during the last decade, the SC has witnessed that habitual PIL petitioners come to the court with every topic contested in public.
- With the pandemic limiting the physical functioning of the 3-tier justice delivery system for over two years, the number of cases pending in the SC, High Courts (HC) and district courts has surpassed 4 crores.
 - One-fourth of them pending for the past five to 20 years.
- Every roadblock in delivering speedy justice must be consciously removed.
- The CJI-designate has the following potent solutions to eradicate the chronic PIL-mania:-
 - Devise a system through which courts can **impose costs on litigants who bring frivolous cases before the courts.**
 - The losing party in a frivolous case must bear the expense of wasting valuable judicial time and resources.
 - **Put up a permanent five-judge bench.**
 - This was possible even when the SC had seven or eight judges, when compared with a current strength of 34 justices.
 - **An Amicus Curiae route to reduce frivolous PILs.**
 - An Amicus Curiae is an individual or organization who is not a party to a legal case, but who is permitted to assist a court by offering information, expertise or insight that has a bearing on the issues in the case.
 - The constitutional courts can develop a system in which genuine PILs heard by the court are handled only by court-appointed amicus curiae, regardless of the petitioner.
 - Many PILs would not be filed if the SC and the HCs could implement this procedure, as this instrument is essentially intended to create publicity for the petitioner.

Views of current CJI:

- CJI remembered the freedom fighter and Gandhian - Keertiseshulu Sri Pingali Venkayya, who designed the National Flag - the pride and identity of Independent India.
- The Indian Constitution is the fundamental document which regulates the relationship between the citizens and the government.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- While the Constitution grants inalienable rights, it also imposes certain essential duties on Indian citizens.
 - This means the fundamental duties are not merely pedantic or technical or academic. They were incorporated as the key to social transformation
 - The top court has inherited the case backlog of nearly a year on the account of pandemic and resultant lockdowns. In the last 16 months, the top could physically assemble for only 55 days.
-

