

### BUREAUCRATS HAVEN'T FAILED. BUT THEY CAN DO BETTER

#### Context

- The article discusses the performance of the premier administrative service post completion of 75 years of India's independence.
- Though public perception of bureaucracy is negative owing to misdeeds of a few, but the quiet and silent young officers struggling to improve the lives and livelihoods of people in remote regions of the country often goes unnoticed.

#### About Indian Administrative Service

- **Description:** The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is considered the premier civil service of India and is one of the three arms of the **All India Services** of the Government of India, along with the Indian Police Service (IPS) and the Indian Forest Service (IFS).
- **History:** It was founded in **1858** as the **Imperial Civil Service**, then in 1950, it was renamed the Indian Administrative Service. IAS is the permanent bureaucracy in India and forms a part of the executive branch.
- **Functions:** Broadly, the responsibilities of the IAS can be broken up into **six roles** as follows:
  - Regulatory role
  - Policy making
  - Programme implementation
  - Improving ease of living
  - Ease of doing
  - Business and governance

#### Reasons for conformity culture in bureaucracy

- **Foreign posting incentives:** It is one attraction in the service that often makes even the competent, a conformist.
- **Ecosystem:** Like all bureaucracies, the system often prefers conformity over competence, conviction and willingness to take an evidence-based position.

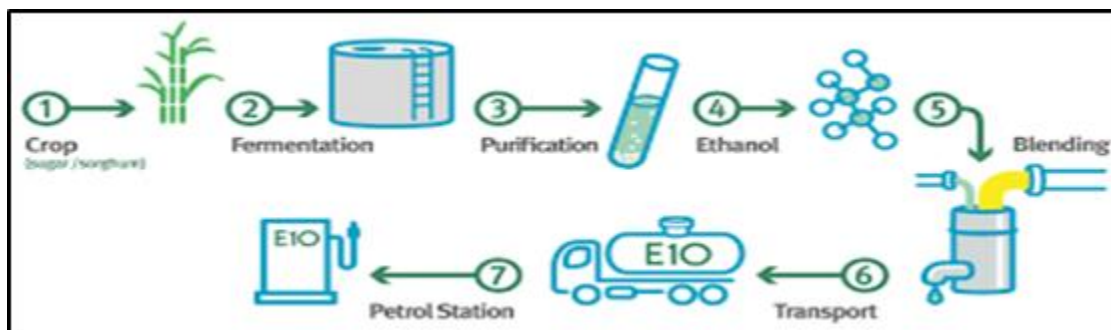
- **Constraints:** A democracy has its own compulsions of political compliance and the IAS is not insulated from it.
- **Political culture:** There are diversities across states in terms of powers. The dependence of the performance of the IAS on the political executive and its conduct makes assessments tough.

## UNDERSTANDING ETHANOL BLENDING

### In News:

- While addressing the nation from the Red Fort on India's 76th Independence Day, PM Modi announced that India had met its target of blending 10% sugarcane-extracted ethanol in petrol ahead of schedule.
- Because India is one of the world's largest oil importers, the PM advocated for energy independence, stressing that India must be Aatmanirbhar in the energy sector.

### About ethanol ( $C_2H_5OH$ ):



- Ethanol is an agricultural by-product which is mainly obtained from the processing of sugar from sugarcane, but also from other sources such as rice husk or maize.
- Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, it is also considered as renewable fuel.
- In India, ethanol is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.
- **Ethanol blending** is the process of combining ethanol and petrol to use less fossil fuel while driving a vehicle.

- To supplement ethanol supplies, the Government of India has permitted the procurement of ethanol produced from sources other than molasses, which is known as **first generation ethanol or 1G**.
- Aside from molasses, ethanol can be derived from rice straw, wheat straw, maize cobs, corn stover, bagasse, bamboo and woody biomass, which are known as **second generation ethanol sources or 2G**.

### **Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:**

- The EBP programme was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2003, to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels.
- Under this programme, starting with 5% blending, the government later increased the target of 10% ethanol blending by 2022.
- India's goal is to grow this ratio to 20% by 2030, but when the NITI Aayog released the ethanol roadmap in 2021, that deadline was advanced to 2025.

### **Benefits of EBP programme:**

- **Will reduce India's import bill:** The use of alternative fuel and its blending with petrol will reduce India's import dependency (almost 85%) for energy requirements.
  - According to a NITI Aayog 2021 report, India's net petroleum imports in 2020-21 were 185 million tonnes at a cost of \$55 billion and a successful ethanol blending program may save the country \$4 billion per year.
- **Will reduce environmental pollution:** As the ethanol molecule contains oxygen, it allows the engine to more completely combust the fuel, resulting in fewer emissions.
  - The recently inaugurated Indian Oil Corporation's 2G ethanol plant will benefit both the farmers and environment.
  - Selling leftover stubble (leftover after rice harvesting) will aid in the production of biofuels. This means less stubble burning and, as a result, reduced air pollution.
- **Will increase farm income:** The extra consumption of surplus food grains would ultimately benefit the farmers.

### **Challenges before the industry when it comes to 20% ethanol blended fuel:**

- **Impact on the automobile industry:**

- According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the industry has committed to becoming E20 engine compliant by 2025.
- This means that engines would need to be tweaked so as to process petrol which has been blended with 20% ethanol.
- Ethanol burns completely emitting nil carbon dioxide. However, it does not reduce the emission of another key pollutant - nitrous oxide.
- Another source of contention is inefficient land usage in ethanol production and the amount of water required to cultivate crops for ethanol.
- **For example**, a tonne of sugarcane can yield 100 kg of sugar and 70 litres of ethanol, implying that a litre of ethanol from sugar takes 2,860 litres of water.
- **Food security concerns:** Given the uncertainties surrounding future output, India may struggle to simultaneously develop local food supply systems, set aside appropriate stocks for lean years, retain a grain export market and divert grain to ethanol at the predicted rate in the coming years.

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## INDIA SUSPENDED BY FIFA, MAY LOSE RIGHTS TO HOST WOMEN'S U-17 WORLD CUP

### **In News:**

- FIFA, the governing body for world football, suspended the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) for undue interference by a third party.
- AIFF is the governing body of football in India.
- This is the first time AIFF has been suspended since the federation was formed in 1937.

### **News Summary**

- The Bureau of FIFA council also took away the country's rights to hold the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, which was scheduled to be held from October 11-30.

### **Background:**

- The current set of troubles for Indian football began after the erstwhile AIFF president, Praful Patel, refused to relinquish his post as the head of football in the country.

- Patel had completed his three terms and 12 years as AIFF president in December 2020.
- However, the polls could not take place because of pending cases in the SC regarding the constitution of AIFF.
- On May 18, the Supreme Court intervened, and removed Patel from his post.
- The SC also appointed a Committee of Administrators (CoA) to run the AIFF.
- COA comprises of Justice (retired) Anil Dave, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India SY Quraishi, Former India captain Bhaskar Ganguly
- The setting up of this CoA is where the contentious relationship with FIFA began, which eventually led to the ban.
- The appointment of CoA is considered third-party interference, which is against FIFA statutes.
- The SC's diktat (order) to the CoA to run the AIFF was a textbook case of third-party interference, according to FIFA statutes.

### **FIFA did not immediately ban India after the appointment of CoA**

- Initially, FIFA believed that the CoA would not make any major changes to the AIFF constitution. It was made to believe this by the CoA itself.
- But when the first draft of the constitution was released, FIFA got the notion that it is changing the constitution.
- CoA had altered the executive committee of the AIFF.
- It also changed the way the executive committee would be formed, and who could vote or be voted for in its formation. Also there was no scope of an executive committee to ratify or challenge these decisions
- These changes were considered as third-party interference by the world governing body of football.

### **What does the ban mean for Indian football?**

- The suspension means, firstly, no international football — and this applies to all national teams, across all age groups.
- It also applies to both men's and women's football,

What does FIFA ban mean for Indian football?
■ During the course of the suspension, any domestic tournaments being conducted will not be recognised by either the AFC or FIFA
■ The National teams will not be allowed to participate in any international tournaments
■ Gokulam Kerala FC cannot participate in the AFC Women's Club Championship next week
■ Senior National team cannot participate in the SAFF Women's Championship next month
■ ATK Mohun Bagan's AFC Cup fixture on September 7 is also doubtful

and to all club teams in India.

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### **When will the ban be lifted?**

- FIFA has said that two main concerns need to be addressed in order for the ban to be lifted.
  - First, the mandate of the CoA would have to be repealed in full.
  - Second, the AIFF administration would need to be completely in charge of its day-to-day running once again.
- FIFA also stated that it wanted the AIFF constitution to be revised on the terms of FIFA policies, and for the election to be held on current AIFF membership structures that are based on state associations only.

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## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS

**India has contributed four lakh US dollars to four Voluntary Trust Funds as part of its commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights and support for United Nations Human Rights.**



### **About:**

- India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva in a tweet said that the contribution reflects India's commitment in this regard.
- The four Trust Funds to which contribution has been made include the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review, and the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in the work of the council.

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## ONDIVEERAN

**Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L Murugan has expressed his gratitude to Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for authorizing a**

commemorative postal stamp for freedom fighter Ondiveeran. The stamp will be released on 20th August in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu.



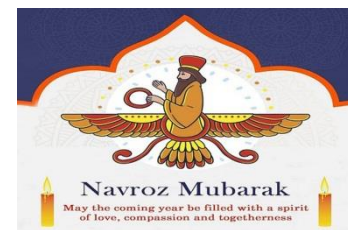
**About:**

- Ondiveeran Pagadai (or Ondi Veeran) (died 20 August 1771) was an Indian commander-in-chief who fought against the British East India Company in Tamil Nadu.
- Ondiveeran came from the Arunthathiyar community and is viewed by them

as a hero.

## NAVROZ

On August 16, 2022, Navroz or the Parsi New Year is being celebrated.



**About:**

- It is the most widely celebrated festival of the Parsi community.
- This is seen as a harbinger of peace and prosperity. In Mumbai and its suburbs, which host a considerable population of Parsi community, the festival is celebrated with grand lunch and dinner with the best and finest variety of Parsi cuisine.
- On this day, the Parsis visit the Agyaris or the fire temples to offer prayers. They feed the poor on this day, as the new year has to start on a good note. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar have greeted the people on the occasion.

## SPACE KIDZ INDIA

Space Kidz India unfurled the Indian flag about 30 kilometres above the planet on Independence Day.



## About:

- The flag was sent to an altitude of 1 lakh 6 thousand feet above the planet on a balloon that unfurled it.
  - The event was part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav slogan and under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate the historic anniversary.
  - Space Kidz India is an organization creating 'young scientists for the country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.'
  - The organization recently launched a satellite into Low Earth Orbit. AzadiSAT was developed by 750 girl students from across India to mark the 75 years of Independence.
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## 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.
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## MOSCOW CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY-2022



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has stressed on the comprehensive reform of United Nations' structure saying that this worrying shortcoming of United Nations' system is manifestation of its structural inadequacy.



**About:**

- Addressing the plenary session of Moscow Conference on International Security-2022 virtually today, Mr. Singh said, at the core of India's call for reformed multilateralism, lies the reform of the United Nations Security Council which is reflective of the contemporary realities.
- He said, major powers' refusal to change United Nations institutions in tune with time, ignores the emerging geo-political realities, economic and technological progress happened since 1945.
- Singh stressed that the Council must be made more representative of developing countries to provide leadership to the entire world.
- On the Indo-Pacific region, the Defence Minister said, as a nation central to the Indian Ocean, India is committed to a free, open, secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.