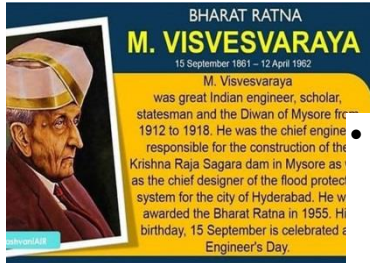


M VISVESVARAYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted all engineers on the occasion of Engineers Day.



About:

Every year India celebrates National Engineer's day on September 15 to recognise and honour the achievements of the great engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

- Along with India, Visvesvaraya's great works are also celebrated in Sri Lanka and Tanzania on September 15 as Engineer's day.
- Popularly known as Sir MV, he undertook several complex projects and delivered remarkable infrastructural results during his engineering career.
- He patented and installed an irrigation system with water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune to raise the food supply level and storage to the highest levels known as 'block system' in 1903.
- The irrigation system was later installed at Gwalior's Tigra Dam and Mysuru's Krishnaraja Sagara (KRS) dam, the latter of which created one of the largest reservoirs in Asia at the time.

INDIA'S GROWING WATER CRISIS, THE SEEN AND THE UNSEEN

Context

- The UNESCO's United Nations **World Water Development Report of 2022 (UN WWDR 2022)** has encapsulated global concern over the **sharp rise in freshwater withdrawal** from streams, lakes, aquifers and human-made reservoirs, impending water stress and also water scarcity being experienced in different parts of the world.
- The report titled, "**Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible**" describes the challenges and opportunities associated with the development, management and governance of groundwater across the world.

- As per report, groundwater accounts for 99 per cent of all **liquid** freshwater on Earth. However, this natural resource is poorly understood and consequently **undervalued** and **mismanaged** and even **abused**.

Background

- In 2007, ‘**Coping with water scarcity**’ was the theme of World Water Day (observed on March 22).
- The **new Water Report** of the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**) of the United Nations sounded a **note of caution** about this silent crisis of a global dimension, with millions of people being deprived of water to live and to sustain their livelihood.

Decade of action

- **World Water Week 2022** took place in Stockholm, Sweden recently (23 August to 1 September) featuring many discussions under the theme: “**Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water**”.
- These deliberations are expected to help bring the water agenda to the forefront, ahead of the **UN-Water Summit on Groundwater in Paris in December, 2022**.
- The agenda will be furthered in the **UN Water Conference in New York in March 2023**, formally known as the 2023 Conference for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of Implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation (2018-2028).

Growing water stress

- The **Water Scarcity Clock**, an interactive **web tool**, shows that over two billion people live in countries now experiencing high water stress and the numbers will continue to increase.
- The **Global Drought Risk and Water Stress map** (2019) shows that major parts of India, particularly west, central and parts of peninsular India are highly water stressed and experience water scarcity.
- A NITI Aayog report, ‘**Composite Water Management Index**’ (2018) has sounded a note of caution about the **worst water crisis** in the country, with more than 600 million people facing acute water shortages.

Impending dangers of water scarcity

- **Prompts competition:** Areas with acute water shortage usually resort to transferring of water from the hinterlands/upper catchments or drawing it from stored surface water bodies or aquifers. This triggers sectoral and regional competition.
- **Demonstration:** Increasing **trans-boundary transfer** of water between rural and urban areas is one such issue of global concern which has been noted in many countries since the early 20th century.
- **Statistics:** A 2019 Review paper reported that, globally, **urban water infrastructure imports** an estimated **500 billion litres of water per day** across a combined distance of 27,000km.
- **Inter-basin transfers:** At least 12% of large cities in the world rely on inter-basin transfers.
 - A UN report on ‘Trans boundary Waters Systems – Status and Trend’ (2016) linked this issue of water transfer with various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed to be achieved during 2015 to 2030.
 - The report identified risks associated with water transfer in three categories of biophysical, socio-economic and governance.
 - South Asia, including India, falls in the category of high biophysical and the highest socio-economic risks.

Ahmedabad case study

- **Earlier layout:** In Ahmedabad more than **80% of water supply** in the city used to be met from groundwater sources till the **mid-1980s**. The depth to **groundwater level** reached **67 metres** in confined aquifers.
- **Today’s picture:** The city now depends on the **Narmada canal** for the bulk of its water supply. The **shift** is from **local groundwater to canal water** receiving supply from an inter-State and inter-basin transfer of surface water.

[EU COURT’S RULING ON RECORD \\$4.4 BN GOOGLE FINE MAY SET PRECEDENT](#)

In News:

- Europe's top court agreed with EU antitrust regulators that Google had abused its dominance but trimmed the fine by 5% because of a disagreement on one point.

Background:

- Since 2010, the European Union (EU) had been investigating several antitrust complaints against Google.
- These complaints alleged abuses of its dominant position in breach of the EU's competition laws.
- The three formal charges, as investigated by the European Commission, against Google were:
 - **Related to shopping comparison**
 - The European Commission found that Google's algorithm promoted its own products in search engine results pages and demoted links of opponents.
 - **Related to Android**
 - The Commission, in 2018, said that Google abused its dominance in Android to unfairly favour its own services.
 - The Commission claimed Google did so in part by forcing smartphone makers to pre-install its apps exclusively.
 - **Related to Online advertising**
 - The third European investigation into Google resulted in a roughly \$1.7 billion fine against the company in March 2019 for allegedly stifling competition in online advertising.
 - The Commission's claims were based on exclusive contracts Google allegedly had with publishers using its AdSense tool that restricted them from showing ads from its competitors.

European Commission

- The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm.
- EC is known as the guardian of the treaties.
 - It is due to its responsibility to represent the European interest and enforce the treaties and legislation that provide the legal foundation for the EU.
- Its members consist of a team of 27 Commissioners (one from each EU country) – led by the Commission President.

- It is located at Brussels (Belgium).

News Summary

- Alphabet unit Google suffered its second setback in less than a year as Europe's top court agreed with EU antitrust regulators that it had abused its dominance in android section.
 - The court said that Google imposed unlawful restrictions on manufacturers of Android mobile devices and mobile network operators in order to consolidate the dominant position of its search engine.
 - However, the court trimmed the fine by 5%.
-

CABINET APPROVES ADDITION OF FOUR TRIBES TO ST LIST

In News:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the addition of four tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Scheduled Tribes in India:

- According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Tribes account for 104 million representing 8.6% of the country's population.
 - No community has been specified as Scheduled Tribe in the State of Haryana and Punjab and UTs of Chandigarh, Delhi and Puducherry.
- Government of India set up Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 1999 after the bifurcation of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- As in the case of the Scheduled Castes, the Plan objective of empowering the tribals is being achieved through a three-pronged strategy of: Social empowerment, Economic empowerment & Social justice

The list of Scheduled Tribes

- Article 342 provides for specification of tribal communities or parts of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which are deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or UT.
- In pursuance of these provisions, the list of Scheduled Tribes is notified for each State or Union Territory.

- These lists are valid only within the jurisdiction of that State or UT and not outside.
- A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.
- The inclusion of a community as a Scheduled Tribe is an ongoing process.

Inclusion of tribe in the ST list

- **Criteria for inclusion in ST List**

- The criteria presently followed for specification of a community as a Scheduled Tribe are:
 - indications of primitive traits; distinctive culture; geographical isolation; shyness of contact with the community at large; and backwardness.
- However, these criteria are not spelt out in the Constitution.

- **Process of inclusion**

- The process to include tribes in the ST list begins with the recommendation from the respective State governments.
- These recommendations are then sent to the Tribal Affairs Ministry, which reviews and sends them to the Registrar General of India for approval.
- This is followed by the approval of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes before the list is sent to the Cabinet for a final decision.

News Summary

- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the inclusion of tribes of **five states** in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.
- Among the states whose tribes have been included in the list are **Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh.**

Tribes to be included in the ST category list

- **Hattee community of the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district**
 - The Hattee community of the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmaur district was granted the status of ST in the latest decision by the Cabinet.
 - The Cabinet approval follows the Registrar General of India's nod to the proposal for grant of ST status to the Hattee community after rejecting earlier proposals in 1995, 2006 and 2017.
- **Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran community from Tamil Nadu**

- **Binjhia in Chhattisgarh**

- Binjhia were listed as ST in Jharkhand and Odisha but not in Chhattisgarh.

- **Gond community residing in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh**

- The Cabinet approved a proposal to bring the Gond community residing in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh, under the ST list from the Scheduled Caste list.
- This includes the five subcategories of the Gond community (Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, and Rajgond).

- **Synonyms for 11 tribes in Chhattisgarh and one tribe in Karnataka included in the list**

- So that variations in their spellings and pronunciations do not result in people being left out of beneficiary schemes.
- The Cabinet approved 'Betta-Kuruba' as a synonym for the Kadu Kuruba tribe In Karnataka.
- In Chhattisgarh, the Cabinet approved synonyms for tribes like:
 - Bharia (variations added include Bhumia and Bhuyian), Gadhwa (Gadwa), Dhanwar (Dhanawar, Dhanuwar), Nagesia (Nagasia, Kisan), and Pondh (Pond), among others.

IN RARE MOVE, SC BENCH ORDER CRITICISES CJI'S LISTING SYSTEM

In News:

- In a rare instance, a Supreme Court bench criticised the new case listing system, claiming that it gives judges insufficient time to hear cases.
- The new Chief Justice of India (49th CJI U U Lalit), recently introduced the SC's new case listing method.

Listing system in SC:

Steps involved:

- **Registering the case**
 - First, a party files a petition either physically at the SC's filing counter or through the court's website.

- After this, the SC registry - the court's administrative side that receives and processes documents - examines the petition for any defects in following the court rules and practices.
 - When defects are communicated to the parties, they usually have 28 days to correct them.
- Once defects are corrected, the matter is registered before the court and the party gets a petition number.
- After that, the case is sent to the registry for verification, where the registry examines it and looks at things like whether similar cases are pending.
- **Listing Section**
 - Following verification, the matter is forwarded to the listing section, which assigns a hearing date.
 - Different types of cases are assigned to different benches. A petition is assigned to a bench based on this.
 - On the date of the first hearing, the bench hearing the case may admit the petition or issue a notice to the opposing party to respond.
 - According to lawyers, the entire process **can take 7 - 10 days in routine cases**, assuming parties cure defects within a day and the registry finds no issues in the petition.
 - If a case is admitted and regular hearings begin, it is listed in chronological order unless the court sets a specific date for it.


Criticism of the listing system:

- **Listing process is arbitrary:**
 - The listing process is crucial because the SC has a significant backlog and several cases of national importance have been pending for years.
 - However, the SC has no objective process that determines when a case is listed.
 - While certain guidelines have been laid down for listing cases, many lawyers and even judges have complained that the process is arbitrary.
- **Some cases listed faster over others:**
 - In cases where parties require immediate relief, a procedure known as "mentioning" is used to expedite the process.

- Lawyers can apply to a designated SC registrar for early listing under this provision. If the registrar refuses, they may take the matter to the CJI.
- While the SC put in place an automated listing system in 2019, the CJI, as the master of the court's roster, has full discretion over how cases are listed and may prioritise certain cases.
- **Opaque process:**
- Various steps of the listing process, such as verification (which are not trackable on the website, it is hard to identify what causes delay) and mentioning (process is not consistent and is constantly being updated), are opaque.

The new listing system:

- After taking oath as the 49th CJI, Justice Lalit pledged to streamline case listing after his predecessor (Justice N V Ramana) admitted that he could not devote much attention to this area.
- The introduction of the listing system by CJI Lalit meant **two distinct shifts** for the 30 judges.
- They gathered in 15 different benches on Mondays and Fridays **to hear newly filed cases**, which numbered more than 60 each day.

| NO. OF MATTERS IN AFTERNOON SESSION | |
|--|--|
| <p>➤ While adjourning hearing in a case titled 'Nagesh Chaudhary Vs State of UP' to Nov 15, a bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul & Abhay S Oka says, "New listing system not giving adequate time to take up matters fixed for hearing like present case as there are a number of matters within span of 'afternoon' session"</p> <p>➤ New system introduced by CJI Lalit means two distinct shifts for 30 judges. On</p> |  <p>Monday and Friday, the assemble in 15 different benches to hear fresh filed cases, which number over 60 each d</p> <p>➤ On Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, judges in the morning session (10.30: 1 pm) hear old cases in a combination of three-judge benches</p> <p>➤ In the afternoon, two-judge benches are assigned 30-odd after-notice cases. However, the CJI has already reduced 1 case count from 30 to 20</p> |

○ On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, the judges heard **old cases involving important legal issues** in the morning session (from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) in a combination of three-judge benches.

○ In the afternoon, the two-judge benches were assigned 30-odd **after-notice cases** (reduced to 20 later) to be dealt with in 120 minutes, averaging 4 minutes of judicial attention per case.

INDIA-BHUTAN RELATIONS

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck held a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi.

About:

- India and Bhutan share a unique and time-tested bilateral



relationship, characterized by utmost trust, goodwill, and mutual understanding.

- The special relationship has been sustained by a tradition of regular high-level visits and dialogues between the two countries.
- India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. In 2018, total bilateral trade between the two countries stood at over 9000 crore rupees.

INDO-PACIFIC TRILATERAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar said India and France have agreed to work towards the establishment of Indo-Pacific trilateral development cooperation.



About:

- Indo-Pacific trilateral development cooperation would facilitate development projects, especially in the framework of the International Solar Alliance.
- The Indo-Pacific trilateral would also provide a platform for Indian innovations and startups to demonstrate their relevance to the requirements of other societies.
- International Solar Alliance now has formed projects in three countries which show the impact that India and France make together in Bhutan, Papua New Guinea and Senegal.
- The Minister added that India and France are launching a scheme for the exchange of young professionals in the age group of 18 to 35 years as a follow-up to the migration and mobility partnerships.

FIFA UNDER 17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2022



The Union Cabinet has approved the Signing of Guarantees for hosting Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



About:

- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11th and 30th October 2022.
 - The seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament will be the first-ever FIFA women's competition to be hosted by India.
 - The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is the world championship for female players under or upto the age of 17, organized by FIFA. The event started in 2008 and is traditionally held in even-numbered years.
 - The 6th edition of the event was held in Uruguay from 13th November to 1st December, 2018. Spain is the current champion of FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup.
 - FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 will be the 7th edition of the tournament in which 16 teams, including India, will participate.
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