

Lok Adalat

❖ Context

➤ Recently, The 3rd National Lok Adalat was organized across the country which **disposed off total 1,08,51,553 cases.**

❖ Key Highlights

- During the COVID pandemic, the **Legal Services Authorities (LSAs) innovatively leveraged technology and introduced E-Lok Adalat**, wherein affected parties could get their matter resolved without physically visiting the venue of the Adalat.
- As per data shared with NALSA, the **State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) of 28 States and UTs so far organized E-Lok Adalats** since June, 2020.

About Lok Adalat

- Lok Adalat is one of the **alternative dispute redressal mechanisms.**
- It delivers **informal, cheap and expeditious justice** to the common people.
- It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably.
- Given **statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.**
- Cases are disposed of in a **single day.**
- The speed is due to **procedural flexibility**, as there is no strict application of procedural laws such as the **Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.**
- **Award (decision)-** Deemed to be a **decree of a civil court** and is final and **binding on all parties.**
- **No appeal** against such an award lies before any court of law.
- If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award.
- However, **they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court** of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.

Significance Of Lok Adalat

- As per the **National Judicial Data Grid, 16.9%** of all cases in district and taluka courts are **three to five years old.**
- For **High Courts, 20.4%** of all cases are **5 to 10 years old**, and over **17% are 10-20 years old.**
- Furthermore, over **66,000 cases are pending before the Supreme Court**, over **57 lakh cases before various HCs**, and over **3 crore cases are pending before various district and subordinate courts.**
- Moreover, Lok Adalats are **economically affordable**, as there are **no court fees** for placing matters before the Lok Adalat; finality of awards, as no further appeal is allowed.
- As a result, litigants are forced to approach Lok Adalats mainly because **it is a party-driven process**, allowing them to reach an amicable settlement.

The Okavango delta and Murchison Falls

❖ Context

➤ Oil companies are threatening two of Africa's most iconic biodiversity hotspots in an effort to drill for oil.

The Okavango delta

- It is an **inland delta** located in **north-western Botswana** in southern Africa.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**
- It is formed by the **Okavango river**, also known as **Cubango River**, which originates in the highlands of Angola.
- With the length of 1,500kms, is the **third largest river in southern Africa.**
- It flows into the **Kalahari desert of southern Africa** and spreads out, forming what is called a 'fan'.
- The delta is also the homeland of indigenous people like the San.
- It is home to **Africa's Big Five wildlife species:** Savanna elephants, Cape buffaloes, rhinos, lions and leopards.



- The river waters make the otherwise dry area into a waterlogged wetland that provides vital water resources for animals, plants and over one million people.
- A Canadian company has been drilling for oil in the **Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Nature Conservation Area (KAZA)**.
- KAZA is the **second-largest nature and landscape conservation area** in the world. It is spread across the borders of **Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe**.

The Murchison Falls

- Also known as **Kabalega Falls**, it is a waterfall between **Lake Kyoga** and **Lake Albert** on the **River Victoria Nile** in **Uganda**.
- Lake Albert is one of the Rift Valley Great Lakes that lies on the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Global South

❖ **Context**

- The Union External Affairs Minister recently remarked that India would be the “voice of Global South” during its G20 presidency.

Key Highlights

- ‘Global North’ refers loosely to countries like the US, Canada, Europe, Russia, Australia and New Zealand, while ‘Global South’ includes countries in **Asia, Africa and South America**.
- The term refers to the commonality of the countries in respect of
 - Geographical location in hemispheric south.
 - History of colonisation at the hands of European Powers.
 - Region’s historical exclusion from prominent international organisations.
 - Poor and/or socio-economically marginalised parts of the world.
 - Low/middle income countries classified by the World Bank.
- It has also stood for **cross-regional and multilateral alliances** with references to the 1955 Bandung Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77 at the United Nations.
- The release of the **United Nations Development Program initiative of 2003**, “Forging a Global South,” played an important role in drawing attention to the concept.

World System Approach

- In the study of international political systems, the countries are categorised into broad categories for easier analysis.
- For example, countries during the Cold War era were categorised into **First World, Second World and Third World countries**, according to their association/alliance with the US, the USSR, and non-aligned countries, respectively.
- At the centre of these concepts is the **World Systems approach** introduced by sociologist **Immanuel Wallerstein** in **1974**.
- He emphasised an interconnected perspective of looking at world politics.
- He said there are **three major zones of production**: core, peripheral and semi-peripheral.
- The **core zones** reap profits, being the owners of cutting-edge technologies – countries like the US or Japan. **Peripheral zones**, on the other hand, engage in less sophisticated production that is more labour-intensive. In the middle are **semi-peripheral** countries like India and Brazil.

News in Between the Lines

The International Labour Organization (ILO)

❖ **Context**

- **Big industry do not follow labour standards in India**, representatives of worker unions said at the ongoing Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization (APRM of ILO).

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** was founded in **1919** under the League of Nations and incorporated into the U.N. as a **specialized agency in 1946**.
- The ILO is the **first and oldest specialized agency of the U.N.**
- The ILO was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1969**.





International
Labour
Organization

➤ **The goal of the ILO**

- To advance social and economic justice by setting international labor standards.

➤ The standards upheld by the ILO are broadly intended to ensure accessible, productive, and sustainable work worldwide in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and dignity.

➤ India has ratified six out of the eight-core/fundamental ILO conventions.

➤ **Members**

- The ILO has **187 member states (186 UN Members + Cook Island)**
- **India is a founding member of the ILO** and it has been a permanent member of the ILO Governing Body since 1922.

➤ **Headquarter**

- Geneva, Switzerland.
- ILO is with approximately 40 field offices around the world.

➤ **Organisational Structure**

- The organization has a **three-tiered structure** that brings together governments, employers, and workers.
- The three main bodies of the ILO are the **International Labour Conference, the Governing Body, and the International Labour Office.**

❖ **Context**

➤ **58 airports have been included in the Krishi Udan 2.0 scheme** so far, according to the information provided by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen (Dr).

❖ **Key Highlights**

- 53 airports were initially included in the pilot project which ran for nearly six months.
 - Following that, five more airports were included, bringing the total number of airports covered to be 58.

❖ **Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0**

➤ **Krishi UDAN was launched in August 2020**, on international and national routes to assist farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realisation.

➤ On **October 27, 2021, the Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0** was unveiled.

➤ **Nodal ministry**– Ministry of Civil Aviation.

➤ **Implementing Agency**

- It was formulated with support from AAICLAS - a **100% subsidiary of the Airports Authority of India** and Invest India, India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

➤ **Objective**

- To enable **efficient, timely, and cost-effective air transportation** for all agricultural products, **particularly those coming from the country's North-East, hilly, and tribal areas.**
- To **enhance the proportion of air transportation** in the mix of modes used to move agricultural goods, which also includes items from horticulture, fisheries, livestock, and processed goods.

➤ **Significance**

- The programme helps farmers to transport their produce in order to increase the value of their output.

Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0



BBPS and Single Block Multiple Debits Feature



- It will help **solve the problem of wastage of agricultural food wastes** in the country.

❖ Context

- The RBI has said that it would add a new feature in the UPI platform. Further, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) will include all payments & collections.

❖ About new feature in UPI

- The new functionality will be called **single-block-and-multiple-debits**.
- It will aid payments where delivery of goods and services happens later, like with e-commerce purchases, hotel bookings or investments.
- A customer could create a **payment mandate** against a merchant by blocking funds in his/her bank account, which can be debited when needed.
- Such a facility will **build greater trust** in transactions as merchants will be assured of timely payments.

❖ About BBPS

- It is an **RBI conceptualised ecosystem** driven by **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- It is a **one stop destination for all recurring payments** like electricity, telecom, DTH, gas, water bills, insurance premium, loan repayments, cable, FASTag recharge, educational fees, credit card, municipal taxes, mutual subscription fees, housing society etc.
- However, the system currently **does not allow non-recurring payments**, or collections even if they are recurring in nature.
- This means that **professional service fees, education fees, tax payments, rent collections** fall outside its ambit.

G20 Sherpas



❖ Context

- The four-day gathering of the Sherpas of G20 Members concluded recently in Udaipur.

❖ Key highlights

- The G20 summit is held annually under a **rotating presidency**. It rests with India for 2023.
- The group **does not have a permanent secretariat**. Its presidency is supported by the previous, current and future holders of the post, together called **troika**.
- The 2023 troika includes India, Indonesia and Brazil.
- The processes under G20 are divided into **two parallel tracks - the finance track and the Sherpa track**.
- The **finance track** is led by Finance Ministers and Central bank governors of member nations, who meet throughout the year.
- **Sherpas**, who are personal emissaries of leaders, lead the Sherpa track.
- They oversee negotiations all through the year, discussing agenda items for the summit and coordinating the substantial work of the G20.
- **Working groups** designed around specific themes operate within both tracks. These include representatives from relevant ministries of member nations and invited/guest countries too.
- Various international organisations, such as the UN, IMF and OECD also participate in working groups.

❖ Context



Currency Swap Pact



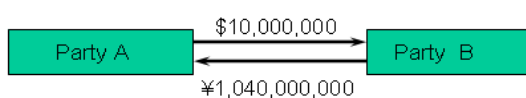
➤ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed an agreement with Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the **SAARC Currency Swap Framework**.

❖ Key highlights

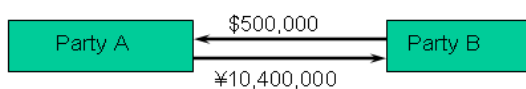
- The agreement is regarding extending a currency swap facility of up to **\$200 million**.
- It will enable the MMA to make drawals in multiple tranches.
- The facility is a backstop line of funding for **short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements**.
- In 2020, the RBI had signed a similar pact for extending up to \$400-million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka.

❖ About Currency Swap

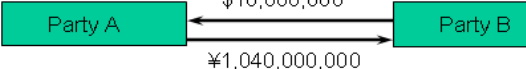
At origination:



At each annual settlement date:



At maturity:



➤ A foreign currency swap is an **agreement between two parties to swap interest rate payments** on their respective loans in their different currencies.

➤ The agreement can also involve swapping principal amounts of loans.

➤ The purpose is to procure loans in foreign currency at more favourable interest rates than might be available borrowing directly in a foreign market.

➤ **Currency swaps differ from interest rate swaps in that they can also involve principal exchanges.**

➤ Currency swaps have been tied to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

➤ However, in 2023, the **Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)** will officially replace LIBOR.

National Cooperative Export Society



❖ Context

➤ The government is planning to set up a "National Cooperative Export Society" to help boost India's exports.

❖ Key highlights

- It is proposed to be set up under the **Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002**.
- India is home to about 800,000 industrial units that are run by producers in rural sectors, catering mostly to the domestic sector.
- **Much of the industry is unorganised.**
- In a push to cooperatives, the government had also approved expanding the mandate of the Government e Marketplace-Special Purpose Vehicle (GeM-SPV) to allow procurement by cooperatives.

