



17 November, 2023

Central Adoption Resource Authority

Context: The Supreme Court earlier this month questioned the "great delay" plaguing India's adoption regulation body the Central Adoption Resource Authority.

➤ Overview of Adoption Scenario in India:

- Approximately 30,000 prospective parents in India wait for an average of three years to adopt a child.
- Only about 10% of orphaned children (estimated between 30,000 to 30 million) are adopted annually.
- Supreme Court expresses concern over the "great delay" in India's adoption systems, addressing CARA's role.

➤ Formation and Purpose of CARA:

- CARA (Central Adoption Resource Authority) was established in 1990 under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Its role is to oversee child adoption procedures for orphaned, surrendered, and abandoned children in India and for non-resident Indians abroad.
- CARA became a signatory to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in 1993 to regulate inter-country adoptions.

➤ Laws Governing Adoption in India:

- Adoption in India is governed by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- CARA is involved when parents choose the Juvenile Justice Act route for adoption.

➤ Evolution of CARA's Powers:

- CARA's powers expanded with the passage of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act in 2015.
- Revisions included the implementation of an e-governance system (CARINGS) to facilitate adoption and ensure transparency.
- The amendments aimed to streamline the adoption process and prevent malpractices in inter-country adoptions.

➤ CARA's Functions in Adoption Process:

- CARA monitors and regulates various adoption-related bodies such as SARA, SAA, AFAA, CWCs, and DPUs.
- Prospective parents interact with the adoption system through processes like registration, home study reports, referrals, and post-adoption follow-ups.

➤ Challenges Faced by CARA:

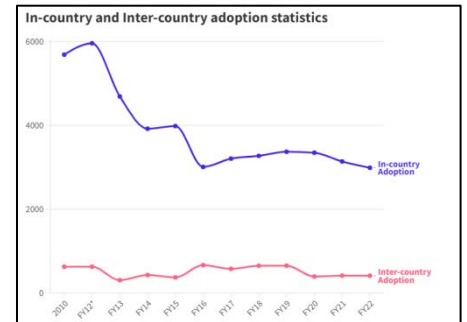
- Challenges include infrastructural deficiencies, lack of awareness, and poor functioning of channels like SAA and CWC.
- Legal mandates for licensed adoption agencies are often not fulfilled, hindering the identification of children eligible for adoption.
- Confusing laws, bureaucratic red tape, and procedural challenges contribute to a decline in adoption figures.

➤ Recommendations and Criticisms:

- Recommendations include district-level surveys to identify and make available orphaned and abandoned children for adoption.
- Critics argue for a shift from a "parent-centric" to a "child-centric" adoption system, suggesting the need for a more enabling and gender-just special adoption law.

➤ Vision for CARA's Role:

- Suggestions highlight the need for CARA to be governed by a child-centric, optional, enabling, and gender-just special adoption law.
- Emphasis on protecting the child's well-being and ensuring a process that does not punish them but safeguards their rights.



World Organisation for Animal Health

Context: India is hosting 33rd Conference of WOAHP for Regional Commission in Asia and the Pacific.

- The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was **established in 1924** to combat global animal diseases.
- OIE has **182 member countries, including India**.
- The **primary objective** of OIE is to control and prevent the spread of epizootic diseases globally.
- OIE actively **addresses antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** and launched **The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance in 2016**.
- The strategy focuses on **enhancing awareness, strengthening knowledge through surveillance and research, supporting good governance, and capacity building, and implementing international standards**.
- OIE develops normative documents establishing rules for Member Countries to protect against the introduction of diseases and pathogens.
- OIE standards are **recognized by the World Trade Organization as reference international sanitary rules**.

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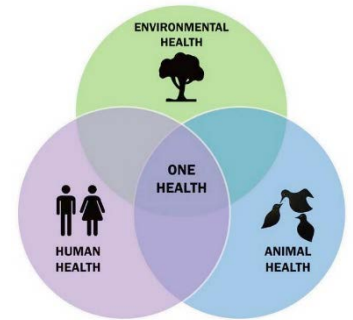


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- OIE is headquartered in Paris, France, and operates independently of the UN system with institutional and financial autonomy.
- OIE is mandated to lead in developing and maintaining the global database on Antimicrobial Use (AMU) in animals.
- According to the Fifth OIE Annual Report on Antimicrobial Agents Intended for Use in Animals, the Asia-Pacific region is the highest consumer of antimicrobials (by animal biomass) compared to other regions.
- OIE's global standards and initiatives contribute to international efforts in animal health and disease prevention.

➤ One Health Concept

- One Health is an approach that recognizes the **interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and the environment.**
- The concept is based on **collaboration between organizations, particularly the tripartite-plus alliance** consisting of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).**
- The purpose of One Health is to promote collaborations in research and knowledge-sharing across various disciplines, including human health, animal health, plants, soil, and environmental and ecosystem health.
- The concept aims to improve, protect, and defend the health of all species by addressing health issues holistically.
- **Reasons for the Growing Importance of One Health:**
 - **Human Expansion:** The growing human population is expanding into new areas, increasing contact with animals and their environments, creating more opportunities for diseases to transfer between animals and humans.
 - **Zoonotic Diseases:** Over 65% of contagious diseases affecting humans have origins in animals, emphasizing the importance of understanding and managing zoonotic diseases.
 - **Environmental Disruptions:** Changes in environmental conditions and habitats can create new opportunities for diseases to pass to animals, affecting overall health.
 - **International Travel & Trade:** Increased movement of people, animals, and animal products through international travel and trade facilitates the rapid spread of diseases across borders.
 - **Wildlife Viruses:** Scientists identify over 1.7 million viruses circulating in wildlife, with many having zoonotic potential, posing a risk of pandemics without timely detection.
 - **Global Pandemic Risks:** The interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health highlights the potential for more pandemics in the future, emphasizing the need for a proactive and collaborative One Health approach.



ASEAN Defence Minister Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)

Context: Indonesia, as the chair of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), is set to host the 10th edition of the meeting in Jakarta in 2023.

➤ ADMM and ADMM-Plus Overview:

- ADMM is the highest defense consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN.
- ADMM-Plus serves as a collaborative platform for ASEAN member states and eight dialogue partners, known as 'Plus Countries.'

➤ India's Role and Partnership:

- India became a dialogue partner of ASEAN in 1992, contributing to the regional dialogue on defense matters.
- The first ADMM-Plus meeting was held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2010 and has continued annually since 2017, showcasing India's active participation.

➤ ADMM-Plus Background:

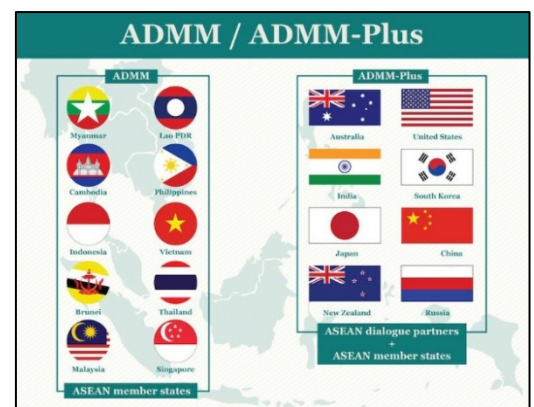
- The ADMM-Plus originated from the 2nd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in 2007, adopting a resolution to establish the ADMM-Plus.
- The inaugural ADMM-Plus meeting was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2010, marking a pivotal moment in regional defense cooperation.

➤ Objectives and Programs:

- The primary objectives revolve around enhancing regional peace and stability through defense and security cooperation.
- Bali Concord II and Vientiane Action Programme serve as guiding frameworks for achieving peace and stability goals.

➤ Focus Areas of Cooperation:

- Cooperation spans seven key focus areas: maritime security (MS), counter-terrorism (CT), humanitarian assistance and disaster management (HADR), peacekeeping operations (PKO), military medicine (MM), humanitarian mine action (HMA), and cyber security (CS).



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- **Expert Working Groups (EWGs):**
 - EWGs have been established for each focus area, operating in a three-year cycle.
 - Co-chaired by one ASEAN member state and one Plus Country, the EWGs facilitate collaboration and initiatives within their respective domains.
- **Current Cycle (2021-2024):**
 - In the ongoing cycle, India assumes a significant role by co-chairing the EWG on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) alongside Indonesia.
- **ASEAN Membership:**
 - ASEAN's membership includes ten member states: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.
 - Eight Plus countries are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States.
- **Aim and Areas of Cooperation:**
 - The overarching aim is to promote mutual trust and confidence between defense establishments through dialogue and transparency.
 - Areas of cooperation encompass a wide range, including maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, and military medicine, fostering a comprehensive approach to regional security.

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

United Nations Security Council



Recently, the United Nations Security Council has called for "extended humanitarian pauses" in the Gaza Strip.

About United Nations Security Council:

- The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 by the UN Charter.
- It is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations, focused on maintaining international peace and security.
- Its headquarter is in New York.
- It comprises 15 members—five permanent (the United States, Russia, France, China, and the United Kingdom) and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- 10 non-permanent seats elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.
- The veto system among permanent members is considered outdated, hindering decision-making.
- Deep divisions among the P5 members often lead to impasses and blocks in critical decision-making.

Launch Vehicle Mark-3



Recently, ISRO announced that the cryogenic upper stage of India's LVM3 M4 launch vehicle, used for launching Chandrayaan-3, re-entered the Earth's atmosphere on November 15 in an uncontrolled manner.

About Launch Vehicle Mark-3:

- Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) is a three-stage medium-lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
- It was launched in July 2023 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, marking India's third lunar exploration mission.
- It is India's heaviest rocket, weighing 640 tonnes, with a length of 43.5 meters and a 5-meter diameter payload fairing.
- It can transport up to 8 tonnes to Lower Earth Orbits (LEO) at 200 km altitude and around 4 tonnes to Geostationary Transfer Orbits (GTO) positioned roughly 35,000 km from Earth.

Three-stage Launch System:

- The first stage of LVM-3 consists of two S200 solid rocket boosters attached to the sides of the rocket body.
- The second stage of LVM-3 is powered by Vikas engines, which use liquid propellants.
- The uppermost stage of LVM-3 is a cryogenic stage, which means it uses cryogenic propellants that are in a liquid state at extremely low temperatures.

Avangard



Recently, Russia's rocket forces had loaded an intercontinental ballistic missile equipped with the nuclear-capable "Avangard".

About Avangard:

- The Avangard is a Russian hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) capable of carrying nuclear or conventional payloads, deployable via various heavy ICBMs.
- Its development was initiated in response to the US withdrawal from the ABM Treaty, aiming to counter strategic missile defense systems.
- Between 2015 and 2016, the Avangard underwent successful flight tests, demonstrating exceptional speed and precision.
- By 2018, it transitioned into serial production, officially entering combat duty in December 2019.
- This glide vehicle operates without an independent propulsion system and relies on intricate evasive maneuvers during its flight trajectory.

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Epilepsy



About Epilepsy:

- National Epilepsy Day is commemorated annually on November 17 in India.
- It ranks as the fourth most common neurological disorder, impacting individuals across all age groups.
- It is more commonly observed in young children and older adults, slightly more prevalent in males than females.
- Eminent figures such as Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens, Elton John, among others, have grappled with epilepsy.

Symptoms: Symptoms of epilepsy encompass sensory changes, dizziness, limb sensations, staring spells, unresponsiveness, and repetitive movements, potentially with or without loss of consciousness.

Treatment: There no definite cure, epilepsy management involves medications and strategic methods to control seizures and their effects.

WHO Report: The World Health Organization's 2019 report, "Epilepsy, a public health imperative," highlighted the global burden of epilepsy and outlined essential public health responses at various levels.

Place in News

Gulf of Guinea

Recently, the Indian Navy has completed its second anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) in the Atlantic Ocean.

About the Gulf of Guinea:

Location: Gulf of Guinea is located off the western coast of Africa and is the north-easternmost part of the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

Coordinates: It lies at the intersection of the Prime Meridian (0°0'E) and the Equator (0°0'N).

Coastal Countries: Sixteen coastal countries border the Gulf of Guinea, including Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, Togo and Sierra Leone.

Salinity: The waters in this region have relatively low salinity due to river inflow and high rainfall.

Major Rivers: The Volta and Niger rivers are the primary tributaries of the Gulf of Guinea.



Place in News

Taiwan

Recently, the Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized to US President Joe Biden that Taiwan is the most critical and hazardous issue in US-China relations.

Taiwan (Capital: Taipei)

Geographical Location: Taiwan is situated in East Asia, positioned at the juncture of the East and South China Seas.

Political Boundaries: It shares boundaries with the People's Republic of China (PRC), Japan and the Philippines.

Coastal Boundaries: It is surrounded by bodies of water, including the East China Sea to the north, the Philippine Sea to the east, the Luzon Strait to the south and the South China Sea to the southwest.

Physical Features:

- The highest peak, Yu Shan, stands at 3,952 meters, making Taiwan one of the world's highest islands.
- Taiwan's longest river is the Cho-shui (Zhuoshui) River, which is 116 miles long.
- The Kao-p'ing (Gaoping) River in the south has the largest drainage basin.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which Island in Italy recently experienced a volcanic eruption? - **Sicily**
- ❖ Which state in India has the largest population of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) based on the 2011 Census? - **Odisha**
- ❖ What type of engine does the Nirbhay use after the jettisoning of the solid propellant booster motor? - **Turbojet engine**
- ❖ In Joseph Shine vs Union of India, what did the Supreme Court declare Section 497 to be violative of? - **Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution**
- ❖ Who has recently resigned from the Finding Committee of Documenta? - **Ranjit Hoskote**

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