



Banjara Community

## Banjara Community

### ❖ Context

- Recently, The Central government kick-started the year-long commemoration of the **284th birth anniversary of Sant Sevalal Maharaj**, a spiritual & religious leader of the **Banjara community**.

### ❖ Key Highlights:

- In January 2023, Prime Minister “**symbolically distributed**” **Hakku Patra (land title deeds)** to five families of the Banjara community in the Kalaburagi district of Karnataka.
- ❖ **Sant Sevalal Maharaj:**
  - Sant Sevalal Maharaj was **born on February 15, 1739**, at Surgondankoppa in Karnataka’s Shivamogga district.
  - It’s believed that while he was young, he miraculously prepared sheera (a sweet) out of the mud and wheat puri to offer to Goddess Jagadamba.
  - Sant Sevalal dedicated his life to **servicing tribal forest dwellers and nomadic tribes**.
  - He worked tirelessly to dispel and **eradicate myths and superstitions prevalent in the tribal communities**, including the Banjaras, and brought about reforms in their way of life.
  - Sant Sevalal Maharaj is believed to have **mastery in Ayurveda and Naturopathy**.
  - Many also believe that once he moved to Hyderabad, **he cured cholera** in the city and was allowed to graze his cattle in the present-day Banjara Hills area.
  - Sant Sevalal **died at the age of 33 in Maharashtra**.
  - Today, he is **revered as a spiritual guru** and social reformer by the Banjara community.
  - His **shrine is situated in Manora Taluka of Washim District of Maharashtra at Pohradevi**, also known as Banjara Kashi.

### ❖ Banjara Community

- The Banjara, also known as Lambadi, Gour Rajput, Labana, are a **historically nomadic trading caste** who may have origins in the Mewar region of what is now Rajasthan.
- In Karnataka the name is altered to **Banijagaru**.
- They are **multi-lingual** Their mother tongue is 'Banjari'.
- They are also conversant in regional languages like Odia, Hindi, Telgu, Tamil, Kannad, Marathi etc depending upon their place of residence as they move here and there for trading.
- ❖ **Hakku Patra**
  - The Hakku Patra is a **property ownership document by which the bearer gets to own land**.
  - With the help of this document, the **bearer is eligible to purchase and sell land** to which the title deed is granted by the government.
  - They will further **receive bank benefits** by means of the Hakku Patra.
  - This Hakku Patra will secure the future of thousands of people living in the “Thandas” (Lambani habitats) in Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgiri, Raichur and Vijayapura districts.

## Government Securities (G-Secs)

### ❖ Context

- Recently, RBI released a **draft proposing the introduction of securities lending and borrowing in Government Securities** to facilitate wider participation in the securities lending market.

### ❖ Key Highlights:

- The move **aims to increase the depth and liquidity** of the Government Securities market in India.
- The Draft Norms refer to Government Securities Lending (GSL) transaction guidelines.
- These guidelines stipulate that such transactions should have a minimum duration of one day and a maximum of 90 days.
- ❖ **Government Securities (G-Secs)**
  - Government Securities (G-Secs) are tradable debt instruments issued by the Central or State governments in order to borrow money from the public to finance their fiscal deficit.
  - These securities represent a **contractual obligation to pay the holder a fixed amount of money**, called principal or face value, on a specified date.

- They **can be short-term**, with original maturities of less than one year, **or long-term** with original maturities of one year or more.
- In India, the Central Government issues both treasury bills and bonds while State Governments issue only bonds, known as State Development Loans.
- **There are four types of Government Securities (G-Secs):**
  - Treasury Bills (T-bills), Cash Management Bills (CMBs), Dated G-Secs, and State Development Loans (SDLs).
- Open Market Operations (OMOs) of RBI involve the sale or purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs).

## Prime Minister's Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM - KISAN)

### ❖ Context

- Recently, Prime Minister of India transferred the **13th installment of about Rs 16,800 crore** under the ambitious **PM-KISAN scheme** of the Government of India.



### Face to Face Centres



### ❖ Key Highlights:

- It was transferred through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** to the bank accounts of more than **8 crore beneficiary farmers** across the country.
- The scheme has also **benefited over 3 crore women beneficiaries** who have collectively received over ₹ 53,600 crore in funds.
- The 11th & 12th instalments under the scheme were given in May and October last year.

### ❖ About PM-KISAN:

- It was **launched in February 2019**.
- It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- It is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.

### ❖ Features

- Under the scheme, the Center transfers an amount of Rs 6,000/year, in **three equal installments**.
- It goes **directly into the bank accounts** of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
- The scheme **defines family as husband, wife and minor children**.
- **Identification of Beneficiaries** : The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the **State / UT Governments**.
- **Beneficiaries** :
  - **Landholding farmers' families** with cultivable landholding in their names can apply under this scheme.

- Farmers from both the urban & rural areas.
- **Small and marginal farmers families**.
- **Exclusion Categories** :
  - Institutional landholders.
  - Present or retired officers & employees of state/central government. as well as PSUs & government autonomous bodies.
  - Beneficiaries with higher economic status are not eligible.
  - Those who pay income tax.
  - Farmer families holding constitutional posts.
  - Professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers.
  - Retired pensioners with a monthly pension of over Rs 10,000.
- **Objectives**:
  - To provide income support to all land holding eligible farmer families.
  - To **supplement the financial needs** of the Small and Marginal Farmers in procuring various inputs.
  - To **protect them from falling in the clutches of money lenders** for meeting such expenses and ensure their continuance in the farming activities.

## Mad Cow Disease

### ❖ Context

- According to the country's agriculture and livestock ministry, **Brazil has temporarily suspended its beef exports to China** following a confirmed case of mad cow disease in the northern state of Para.

### ❖ Mad Cow Disease:

- **About** : Mad Cow Disease, also known as **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)**, is a deadly and slowly progressive infection **affecting adult cattle's central nervous system**.
- **Route of Transmission**
  - It is degenerative and can be transmitted to humans who consume contaminated meat products.
  - It can be contracted by a cow if it eats feed that has been contaminated with parts of another cow that was infected with BSE.

### • Symptoms:

- The disease leads to **neurological symptoms**.
- The cow has difficulty in walking and standing up.
- The cow may also show signs of nervousness or aggression.
- These symptoms typically appear when the cow is in the final stages of the disease.

### • Treatment:

- The duration of the disease can range from two weeks to six months.
- There is no cure for BSE, and infected cows are typically euthanized to prevent the spread of the disease to other cows and humans.
- It has no known treatment and there is no vaccine available to prevent it.

## Heat Waves

### ❖ Context:

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** warned that the maximum temperatures over northwest, west, and central India would be 3-5° C higher than the long-term average.

### ❖ Key Highlights:

- **On February 21 itself**, the national capital recorded its third hottest February day (33.6° C) in more than **5 decades**.
- **Earlier**, the IMD had warned of heat waves in the Kutch and Konkan regions, only to withdraw those after a sea breeze came to the rescue.

### Face to Face Centres

❖ **Origin Of Heat Waves:**

- **Heat waves occur due to one of two reasons:** either warmer air is flowing in from another region, or something is producing it locally.
  - **Local heating** can happen in **2 ways:** through warmer land surface temperature, which warms the air directly above it, or through compression of the air sinking down from above, which generates hot air close to the surface.
  - A study published in **Nature Geoscience** offers some clues as to how different processes contribute to the formation of a heat wave.
  - The following explanation adapts the **study's findings to the Indian context.**
1. **In spring**, India typically has air flowing in from the west-northwest.
    - In the context of climate change, the Middle East is warming faster than other regions in latitudes similarly close to the equator, and serves as a **source of the warm air that blows into India.**
  2. Similarly, when air flows in from the northwest, it passes over the mountains of Afghanistan and Pakistan, causing some compression to occur **on the leeward side of these mountains.**

3. **The air flowing over the oceans** is expected to bring cooler air, since land warms faster than the oceans (because the heat capacity of land is much lower).
    - However, the Arabian Sea is experiencing a faster rate of warming than most other ocean regions, which **means** that the air flowing in over it **may not provide the expected cooling effect.**
  4. **In spring**, the upper atmospheric **westerly winds that move from the Atlantic Ocean** towards India control the near-surface winds.
    - **Whenever the winds blow** from west to east, they move faster than the planet itself, which rotates from west to east.
    - **This movement requires** energy to run against surface friction, which is provided by descending air from above.
    - **This compression of air as it descends heats up and generates some heat waves.**
  5. **Lapse Rate:** the rate at which temperatures cool from the surface to the upper atmosphere – is declining under global warming.
    - This means that the **upper atmosphere is warming** faster than the air near the surface.
    - Thus, **sinking air that is warmed** due to global warming is producing heat waves as it sinks and compresses.
- Given these processes and how global warming affects them, it is clear **why once-a-decade heat waves** have become more frequent and intense.
  - **El Niño and La Niña** events also affect these heat waves, which have been expanding recently.

## News in Between the Lines

### Exercise Cobra Warrior



❖ **Context**

- Indian Air Force to participate in Exercise Cobra Warrior at Waddington in UK.

❖ **Key Highlights:**

- An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 145 Air Warriors will be participating in Exercise Cobra Warrior at the Waddington Air **Force Base of the Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom.**
- The Exercise Cobra Warrior **is a multilateral Air exercise.**
- **Air Forces** from Finland, Sweden, South Africa, United States of America and Singapore would also be participating alongside Royal Air Force and IAF.
- The IAF is participating in the exercise this year with five Mirage 2000 fighters, two C-17 Globe master III and an IL-78 **midair refueller aircraft.**
- **The aim of the exercise** is to participate in diverse fighter aircraft engagements and learn from the best practices of various Air Forces

### National Tiger Conservation Authority



❖ **Context**

- According to officials of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) **India has already recorded 30 tiger deaths within two months into 2023,**

❖ **About National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):**

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) **is a statutory body** under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- The NTCA was **established under** the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **The objectives of NTCA are :**
  - Providing statutory authority to **Project Tiger** so that compliance of its directives **becomes legal.**
  - **Fostering accountability of Center-State in management** of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
  - **Providing for an oversight by Parliament.**
  - **Addressing livelihood interests** of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves.

### Face to Face Centres



## Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee



### ❖ Context

➤ **Bio seed Research India, Hyderabad**, received approval from the GEAC, India's biotech regulatory body, to conduct a Biosafety Research Level-1 (BRL-1) trial for resistance against Pink Bollworm during the Kharif season at Hisar, Haryana.

### ❖ About GEAC:

- **The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)** functions in the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- **As per Rules, 1989**, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
- **The committee is also responsible** for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
- **GEAC is chaired by** the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- **Presently, it has 24 members and meets** every month to review the applications in the areas indicated above.

## Agnipath Scheme



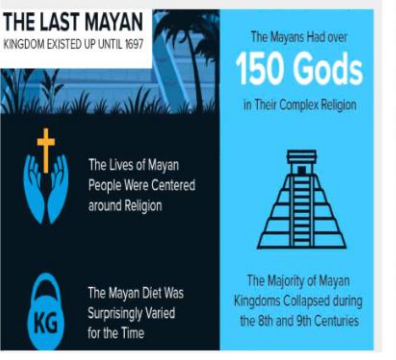
### ❖ Context

➤ Delhi HC dismisses petitions challenging Agnipath scheme.

### ❖ Key Highlights:

- **The Delhi High Court bench** said the Agnipath scheme was a “policy decision on the basis of national security”, and did not find reasons to interfere with it. The **Agnipath scheme**, unveiled last year, lays down rules for recruitment to the armed forces.
- **Under the scheme**, around 46,000 soldiers known as “Agniveers” – will be recruited into the three services (Army, Airforce, and Navy) **for a period of four years on a short-term contractual basis**.
- Of the total annual recruits, **only 25 per cent will** be allowed to continue for another 15 years under a permanent commission.
- The move aims to **reduce the permanent force levels** for over 13 lakh armed forces personnel in the country.
- This will **significantly reduce the defense pension bill**, which has been a cause of concern for governments over the years.

## Mayan Civilization

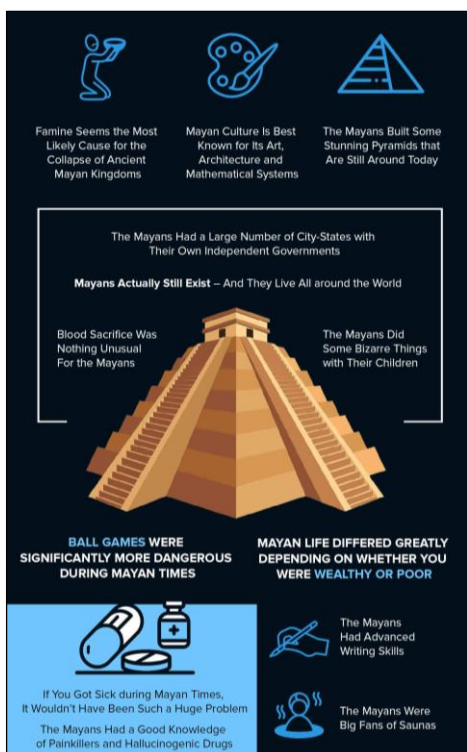


### ❖ Context

➤ Recently, Mexican President became the subject of internet jokes when he claimed a blurry, **dark photo of a tree at night** showed a figure from **Mayan mythology**, as depicted in a historic sculpture from the Mayan civilization.

### ❖ Key Highlights:

- The larger Mayan civilisation (which **reached its zenith between 300 AD to 900 AD**) is recognised as one having significant cultural heft in its time.



- It is also **known for its innovations in farming, stone architecture, the study of mathematics and astronomy, devising calendars**, as well as large-scale human sacrifices as part of religious rituals.
- It spanned present-day **Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala in Central America**.
- **Yucata**, a peninsula in Mexico on the Gulf of Mexico, has important Mayan sites.
- Mayan people, to date, continue inhabiting some of these regions.
- Though the number of people speaking the indigenous languages & following traditional customs has fallen over time with Spanish colonisation or the post-Hispanic period.
- **Aluxes** : According to Mayan mythology, aluxes are small, mischievous creatures that inhabit forests and fields and play tricks on people, like hiding things.
  - It adds that some people leave small offerings to appease them.

### MCQ Quiz

### Daily Current Affairs

### Daily Pre PARE Daily

## Face to Face Centres

