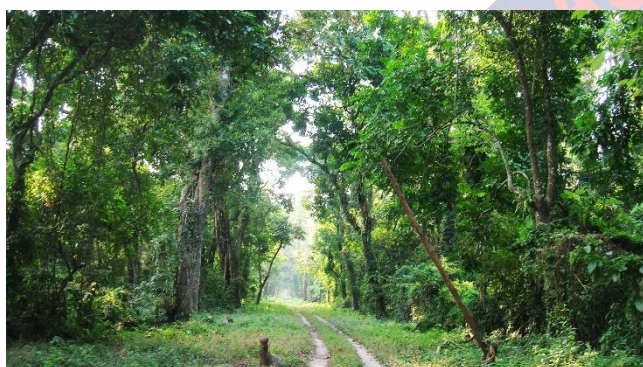


**PRELIMS EDGE 2025****06-07-2025****THE FOREST RIGHTS ACT, 2006**

Context: There is an ongoing debate between the Tribal Ministry and Environmental Ministry regarding FRA 2006 and loss of forest cover.



- The Forest Rights Act, 2006 (officially known as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act) is a landmark legislation aimed at recognizing and securing the rights of forest-dwelling communities in India.

Key Objectives:

- **Recognition of Rights:** To recognize the historical rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs) over forests they depend on for their livelihood.
- **Protecting Livelihoods:** Ensuring the sustainable use of forest resources by local communities.

- **Empowering Communities:** Granting legal rights to forest land and resources to these communities.

Types of Rights Recognized:

- **Individual Rights:** Ownership and access to forest land for cultivation and habitation.
- **Community Rights:** Use of minor forest produce (e.g., bamboo, honey, lac).
- **Grazing rights and access to water bodies.**
- **Management and conservation** of forests by local communities.
- **Community Forest Resource Rights:** Rights to protect, regenerate, and manage forests sustainably.

Key Features:

- **Ownership of Land:** Recognizes land up to 4 hectares per family for cultivation.
- **Protection Against Eviction:** Prevents eviction of forest dwellers without proper recognition and settlement of rights.
- **Role of Gram Sabha:** Empowers the Gram Sabha (village assembly) to determine the rights of individuals and communities.
- **Conservation Focus:** Encourages sustainable management of forests while protecting biodiversity.

Source: Prove that Forest Rights Act is responsible for 'negative' change to forest cover, Tribal Affairs Ministry tells Environment Ministry (The Hindu)

TERMS IN NEWS

Gini coefficient

- The Gini Coefficient, often referred to as the Gini Index or Gini Ratio, is a measure of income or wealth inequality within a specific population, region, or country.
- It assigns a **numerical value between 0 and 1**.
- **0 represents perfect income or wealth equality** (everyone has the same income or wealth), and **1 signifies perfect inequality** (one person or household has all the income or wealth, and everyone else has none).
- To calculate the Gini Coefficient, **income or wealth data is typically arranged in ascending order**, from the poorest to the richest individuals or households.
- A **Lorenz curve is plotted**, which is a graphical representation of the actual income or wealth distribution. It compares the cumulative income or wealth of the population to the cumulative share of the population.
- The Gini Coefficient is calculated by measuring the **area between the Lorenz curve and the line of perfect equality**. This area is then divided by the total area under the line of perfect equality.

Kolhapuri Chappals



- Kolhapuri Chappals are named after the city of Kolhapur in **Maharashtra**, where they originated.
- They are **handmade leather sandals** with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- They are renowned for their intricate, handcrafted designs.
- They have been produced in the Kolhapur region of India since the 13th century.
- Handcrafted with leather, Kolhapuri usually have **open-toed, T-strap designs**.
- The original Kolhapuri is made from **100% leather**. This leather can be from cow, buffalo, or even goat.
- These handmade leather footwears are then tanned using vegetable dyes, giving them a soft feel free of any allergens.
- The traditional Kolhapuris do not have many different color options and can be seen only in shades of tan and deep brown. Similarly, they had three finishes: oil, natural, or polish.
- Traditional artisans can take up to six weeks to make a pair of chappals.
- Their robust construction makes them suitable for various terrains and weather conditions.

- The leather used in Kolhapuri chappals molds to the shape of your feet over time, providing a custom fit that enhances comfort.
- With proper care, they can serve you for many years, making them a sustainable and cost-effective choice in the long run

Ham Radio



- **Amateur radio**, popularly known as ham radio, is a **licensed radio service that relies on radio waves for establishing communication.**
- Ham radio service is largely deployed for **educational and knowledge purposes, for emergency or SOS communication.**
- Using a dedicated frequency, a transceiver and an antenna, communication can be set up between two licensed hams by trained ham operators.
- The communication can be hyper-local, global, and **in space.** In India, any individual above the age of 12 is permitted to operate a ham radio.
- In India, the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issues these licences.**
- Even though the technology to establish communications has advanced, the radio

remains one of the most reliable and stable modes of communication.

- It is effective and an alternate medium of establishing communication.
- Previously, there have been instances when ham radio came to the rescue when traditional communication lines broke down, either due to man-made scenarios (like wars) or natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, and floods.
- In India, ham radio was used for making emergency contacts during the Bhuj earthquake (2001), the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), the floods of Uttarakhand (2013) and more such calamities.

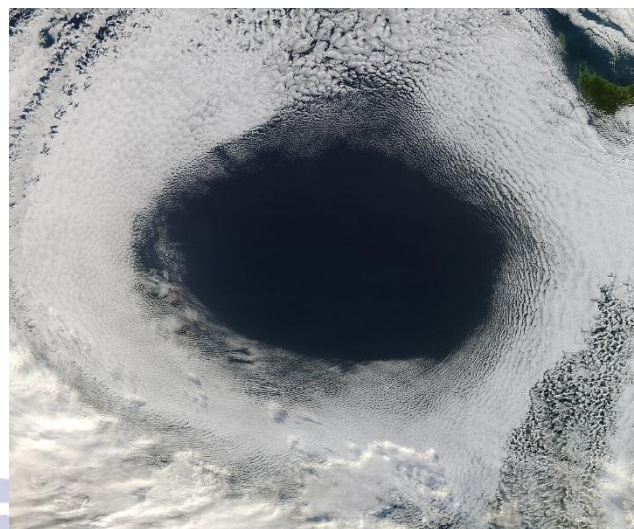
Girmitiyas



- “Girmitiyas” were **Indian indentured laborers who left India in the mid to late 19th century to work in British colonies, where many eventually settled.**
- The word ‘girmitiya’ is etymologically derived from ‘**girit**’, meaning ‘**agreement**’.
- Indians then pronounced ‘agreement’ as ‘girit’, so indentured laborers who were transported to work in places like Fiji and Mauritius, became known as ‘girmitiyas’.

- However, the agreements weren't all that fair.
- Indian laborers signed indentureship contracts with the British in hopes of higher wages and better employment opportunities.
- However, they made long treacherous journeys on old slave ships and upon reaching foreign lands, were made to live in slave barracks, were paid very little, and did not have access to proper legal frameworks under which they could get grievances redressed.
- Though girmitiyas were not technically slaves in the eyes of the law, they were subjected to a practice known as "**blackbirding**", which involved deceiving or tricking people to work as slaves or poorly paid laborers in countries far away from their native land.
- Despite the unfortunate history of girmitiyas, their descendants have prospered in their respective countries, some having held "high-level" government positions and others having achieved success in business and arts.

Polar Anticyclone



- It is a wind system associated with a region in which **high atmospheric pressure develops over or in the vicinity of the poles.**
- The polar anticyclone is **strongest in the cold season of the year.**
- **Examples:** The Siberian anticyclone is an example of a polar anticyclone, as is the high-pressure area that forms over Canada and Alaska during the winter.

Formation of Polar anticyclones

- Polar anticyclones are **created by the cooling of surface layers of air.**
- This cooling causes the air near the surface to become denser and, at the same time, causes an inflow of air at high levels to replace the denser, sinking air.
- These processes increase the mass of air above the surface, thus creating the **anticyclone.**
- The weather within the central regions of these anticyclones is typically clear and quite cold.
- **The strength of polar anticyclones is greatest near the Earth's surface.**

- It frequently migrates eastward and equatorward in the winter season, bringing cold waves to warmer latitudes.
- In the summer they provide cool, dry weather as they move toward the Equator.
- The boundary separating the cold polar air from the warmer air is called the **polar front**, and along this frontal surface the extratropical cyclones, or wave cyclones, form.

PLACES IN NEWS

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)



- The GERD, formerly known as the Millennium Dam, is **situated in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia, near the border with Sudan.**
- It is located on **the Blue Nile**, one of the main tributaries of the Nile River.
- **Capacity:** At 6.45 Gigawatts, it is the largest hydroelectric power plant in Africa.
- The project is owned by Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCO).
- **Dispute:** Egypt and Sudan fear the massive \$4.2bn GERD will severely reduce the share of Nile water they receive and have repeatedly asked Ethiopia to stop filling it

until they have all reached agreement on how it should work.

Dam Features

- It is a roller-compacted concrete (RCC) gravity-type dam comprising two power stations, three spillways, and a saddle dam.
- The main dam is 145 m high and 1,780 m long.
- The dam forms a reservoir covering 1,875 sq.km, which can hold up to 74 billion cubic meters of water. The GERD reservoir is in a deep gorge, so its surface area is relatively small compared to its volume.
- The saddle dam supporting the main dam is 4,800 m long and 45 m high. It has an emergency side spillway to discharge water directly into the reservoir.
- The powerhouses include 16 generating units of 375 MW each.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1 : Which among the following is a measure of income or wealth inequality within a specific population, region, or country.

- Philips Curve
- Tobin Taxation
- Gini Coefficient
- Kuznets Curve

Q2 : Which among the following countries do not share borders with Ethiopia?

- Sudan
- Kenya
- Somalia
- Liberia

Q3 : The term Girmityas often heard in relation to India's Colonial History is related to which of the following?

- Indentured laborers

- B. Measure of land
- C. Commercial Crops
- D. Military Rank

Q4 : Consider the following statements regarding Polar Anticyclone

1. It is a wind system associated with a region in which high atmospheric pressure develops over or in the vicinity of the poles.
2. The polar anticyclone is strongest in the cold season of the year.
3. The strength of polar anticyclones is greatest near the Earth's surface.

How many of the above statements are incorrect?

- A. Only One
- B. Only Two
- C. All of the Above
- D. None of the Above

Q5 : Which among the following is not a type of forest right granted under the Forest Rights Act 2006

- A. Individual Rights
- B. Community Rights
- C. Grazing Rights
- D. Commercial Exploration Rights

Answers

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. D

