



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 11-05-2024**

### **GS-2**

1. Contempt of Courts Act, 1971
2. Reservation within constitutional bounds

### **GS-3**

3. ISRO successfully tested 3D-Printed rocket engine
4. Oleander
5. Glyptothorax punyabratai

## **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971**

**Syllabus: GS-2: Working of Judiciary.**

**Context:**

- *The Allahabad High Court recently stated that rulings made by the **Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)** under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, are exclusively appealable to the Supreme Court and not to the High Court.*

**Constitutional Provisions:**

- **Article 129 of the Constitution** designates the Supreme Court as the 'Court of Record,' granting it all the powers of such courts, including the authority to penalize for contempt of itself.
- **Article 215 confers** a corresponding authority on the High Courts.

**Contempt of Courts Act, 1971:**

- *Contempt of court can be categorized as **civil contempt or criminal contempt**.*
- **Civil Contempt:** *Involves willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ, or other court process, or willful breach of an undertaking given to a court.*
- **Criminal Contempt:** *Encompasses the publication, by words spoken or written, signs, visible representations, or other acts that:*
  - **Scandalize or tend to scandalize**, or lower or tend to lower the authority of any court.
  - **Prejudice, interfere with**, or tend to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding.
  - **Interfere with, tend to interfere with**, obstruct, or tend to obstruct the administration of justice in any manner.

**A contempt of court may incur penalties including:**

- *Simple imprisonment for a **term extending up to six months**.*
- *A **fine** extending up to two thousand rupees.*
- *A combination of both.*
- *However, the accused may be discharged or the punishment remitted upon making a satisfactory apology to the court.*

**What is not Contempt of Court?**

- **Fair and accurate** reporting of judicial proceedings.
- **Fair criticism** on the merits of a judicial order post its hearing and disposal.

## **Reservation within constitutional bounds**

## Syllabus: GS-2: Indian constitution – equity and equality.

### Context:

- *Political conflict over reservation issues*
- *BJP criticizes Congress for calling for caste census, linking it to religion*
- *Opposition expresses concern about BJP's stance on reservation*
- *BJP denies any policy change regarding reservation*

### Constitution and affirmative action:

- **Constitution aims for social justice** while ensuring equality as a fundamental right
- **Articles 15 and 16 ensure equality** in state actions and public employment respectively
- **Special provisions allowed for OBC, SC, and ST for social justice**
- **OBC includes socially and educationally backward castes**, some states have Most Backward Classes (MBC)
- **In the Indra Sawhney case (1992)**, Supreme Court upheld 27% reservation for OBC
- **Caste considered a determinant of class**, not solely economic criteria for backwardness
- **Reservation capped at 50%** to maintain equality as a basic structure
- **Exclusion of "creamy layer"** from OBC, with an income limit
- **Exclusions for children of government officers** in certain categories
- **Janhit Abhiyan case (2022)** upheld constitutional validity of EWS reservation, allowing economic criteria for reservation.

### Affirmative action elsewhere:

- *In the U.S., "affirmative action" includes government-approved and voluntary private programs giving special consideration to racial minorities like African-Americans and Latin-Americans*
- **Fair admissions vs Harvard case (2023)** ruled race-based affirmative action in college admissions violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution
- **In the U.K., "positive action" laws enable employers to combat under-representation of disadvantaged groups voluntarily**
- **France does not have affirmative action based on race or ethnicity**
- **Instead, it focuses on educational measures to increase opportunities for low-income students.**

### Current debate:

- **The Constituent Assembly opposed reservation solely based on religion**

- **Constitution prohibits discrimination based on religion under Articles 15 and 16**
- **BJP's current campaign in Karnataka focuses on including all Muslim communities within the OBC quota.**
- **Sub-categorization for Muslims within the OBC quota has existed in Karnataka since 1995.**
- **Previous government removed the 4% sub-categorization for Muslims, redistributed among Hindu OBCs, but court observation maintains status quo.**
- **Muslim and Christian communities considered socially and educationally backward provided reservations under OBC/MBC category.**
- **Sub-categorization within OBC/MBC quota for Muslim communities in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Constitution specifies SC members should profess Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism, but no such requirement for ST.**
- **Congress manifesto promises to work towards removing the 50% cap on reservations.**

#### **The way forward:**

- **Rohini Commission formed to recommend sub-categorization among OBC castes, findings not public yet, which should be made public.**
- **Around 25% of OBC castes/sub-castes garner 97% of reserved jobs and educational seats at the central level.**
- **Nearly 1,000 of around 2,600 OBC communities have zero representation in jobs and education.**
- **Sub-categorization implemented in 11 states but not at the central level.**
- **Concentration of reservation benefits also seen in SC and ST categories, no "creamy layer" exclusion for them.**
- **Dalit Christians and Muslims face discrimination and lack opportunities.**
- **Commission headed by former CJI K. G. Balakrishnan to study extending SC reservation to Dalits of other religions.**
- **Increasing reservation beyond 50%, sub-categorization, introducing creamy layers for SC and ST, and extending SC reservations to Dalit Christians and Muslims are sensitive issues with pros and cons**
- **Effort needed to deliberate on these matters and frame suitable policies to ensure benefits reach extremely marginalized sections.**
- **Continuous pursuit of social justice while maintaining harmony with equality guaranteed in the Constitution is the aim.**

#### **Practice Question**

*Q. Examine the multifaceted debate surrounding reservation, encompassing sub-categorization, creamy layers, religious inclusivity, and the pursuit of social justice while upholding constitutional principles of equality. (15 marks, 250 words)*

## **ISRO successfully tested 3D-Printed rocket engine**

**Syllabus: GS-3; Science and Technology**

### **Context**

- *ISRO has successfully conducted a long-duration test of its PS4 engine, re-designed for production using cutting-edge **additive manufacturing (AM) techniques** -- also known in common parlance as 3D printing -- and crafted in Indian industry, the space agency said.*



### **More to know**

- *The engine used is the PS4 engine of **PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)** upper stage.*
- *The engine uses the earth-storable bipropellant combinations of **Nitrogen Tetroxide** as oxidiser and **Mono Methyl Hydrazine** as fuel in pressure-fed mode. It was developed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).*

### **What is 3D Printing?**

- *3D printing or additive manufacturing is a process of **making three dimensional objects from a digital file.***
- *The creation of a 3D printed object is achieved using additive processes.*
- *In an additive process **an object is created by laying down successive layers of material until the object is created.***
- *Each of these layers can be seen as a thinly sliced cross-section of the object.*
- *There is one exception though, and it's called volumetric 3D printing.*
- *With volumetric printing entire structures can be formed at once without the need for layer-by-layer fabrication.*
- *It's worth noting, however, that as of now, volumetric technology is primarily in the research phase.*
- *3D printing is the opposite of subtractive manufacturing which is cutting out / hollowing out a block of material with for instance a milling machine.*
- *3D printing enables you to produce complex shapes using less material than traditional manufacturing methods.*

### Significance

- *The new engine, now a single piece, saves 97 per cent of raw materials and reduces production time by 60 per cent, ISRO said.*

## Oleander

### Syllabus: GS-3; General Science

#### Context

- *Two Kerala government-controlled temple boards, which together manage 2,500-odd temples in the state, **have banned use of oleander flowers** (locally known as arali) in temple offerings after a 24-year old woman died after accidentally chewing some oleander leaves.*

#### What is oleander?

- **Nerium oleander**, commonly known as **oleander or rosebay**, is a plant cultivated worldwide in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions.
- Known for its **drought tolerance**, the shrub is often used for ornamental and landscaping purposes.



- *In Kerala, the plant is known by the names of **arali and kanaveeram**, and is grown along highways and beaches as a natural, green fencing.*
- *There are different varieties of oleander, each with a flower of a different colour.*



### How is oleander used in traditional medicine?

- *The Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API), a government document that describes the quality, purity, and strength of drugs used in Ayurveda, mentions oleander. According to API, **an oil prepared from the root bark can be used to treat skin diseases.***
- *The plant has been frequently described in **Brihatrayi, Nighantus** and other classical Ayurvedic texts.*
- ***Charka [Charak Samhita]** has prescribed the leaves of white flowered variety externally in chronic and obstinate skin diseases of serious nature including leprosy.*
- ***Bhavaprakasha** has described **Karvira** [another name of the plant] as a visha (poison) and indicated it in treatment of vrana (infected wounds), kustha (skin diseases including leprosy), krimi (microbes and parasites), kandu (itching), etc.*

### How toxic is oleander?

- *Ingestion or inhalation of smoke from burning oleander can also be intoxicating.*
- *This is due to the properties of **cardiac glycosides** (a type of chemical) including oleandrin, folinerin, and digitoxigenin, which are present in all parts of the plant.*

- *Cardiac glycosides are steroidal compounds capable of exerting pharmacological effects on cardiac muscle.*
- *The primary therapeutic value of these glycosides lies in their ability to exert profound tonic effects on the heart [stronger and faster heart contractions].*
- *Effects of oleander toxicity include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, confusion, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, slow heartbeat, and, in extreme cases, death.*

## **Glyptothorax punyabratai**

### **Syllabus: GS-3; Discovery of New Spices**

#### **Context**

- **The Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) has announced a groundbreaking discovery in the pristine waters of Arunachal Pradesh, India.**



- *A new species of catfish, Glyptothorax punyabratai, has been unearthed by ICAR-NBFGR researchers in the **Brahmaputra River drainage system.***

#### **More to know**

- *The species, named after the esteemed founder director of ICAR-NBFGR, Dr. **Punyabarata Das**, honors his pioneering contributions to fisheries research.*
- *The discovery, detailed in the scientific journal *Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters*, outlines the collection of Glyptothorax punyabratai from **Tung Stream, a tributary of the Tissa River.***
- *This significant finding underscores the rich biodiversity of the region and the imperative for ongoing exploration and conservation initiatives.*