



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 12-07-2024

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Classical languages

Syllabus: GS-1; Art and Culture

Context

- Amid a clamour for classical status for many languages, the Central government has decided to tweak the criteria for giving this special tag.



About

- In India, classical languages are those that have a rich literary tradition spanning over a millennium and have significantly contributed to the cultural heritage of the country.
- The criteria for a language to be declared as a classical language in India, as per the **Classical Languages of India scheme** launched by the Government of India in 2004.

Criteria

- **Ancient Heritage:** The language should have a recorded history of at least 1500-2000 years.
- **Literary Tradition:** It should have a body of ancient literature, which is considered valuable and significant.
- **Independent Tradition:** The language should have an independent tradition that is not borrowed extensively from another language.

- **Literary Activity:** *There should be a substantial body of ancient literature that has been produced in the language, with an extensive body of ancient literature, including religious, secular, and scientific texts.*

Numbers

- **Tamil:** *Tamil is one of the oldest classical languages in the world with a rich literary tradition dating back over two millennia. It has a vast body of ancient literature, including Sangam literature, which encompasses poetry, epics, and philosophical works.*
- **Sanskrit:** *Sanskrit is an ancient Indo-Aryan language that served as a classical language of ancient India. It is known for its extensive corpus of religious, philosophical, and scientific literature, including the Vedas, Upanishads, Mahabharata, Ramayana, and numerous other texts.*
- **Telugu:** *Telugu is a Dravidian language with a classical literary tradition that dates back to the early centuries of the Common Era. It has a rich heritage of poetry, literature, and philosophical works.*
- **Kannada:** *Kannada is another Dravidian language with a classical literary tradition dating back to the early centuries of the Common Era. It has produced significant works of literature, poetry, and philosophical treatises.*
- **Malayalam:** *Malayalam, also a Dravidian language, has a classical tradition that includes literature, poetry, and religious texts dating back to the medieval period.*

Divorced Muslim women entitled to secular remedy – SC

Syllabus: GS-2: SC verdicts

Context:

- *In a landmark ruling, the top Court **opined that relief under Section 125 CrPC is a social security measure that operates independently of any Muslim personal law remedies. What are the key takeaways?***

Supreme Court Ruling on Maintenance for Divorced Muslim Women

- **Judgment:** *A divorced Muslim woman is entitled to claim maintenance under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, from her former husband.*
- **Justices:** *B.V. Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih*

- **Context:** A Muslim man challenged a Telangana High Court direction to pay ₹10,000 interim maintenance to his former wife, arguing the claim should be governed by the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.

Lower Court Rulings:

- Hyderabad family court: ₹20,000 interim maintenance.
- Telangana High Court: Reduced to ₹10,000, with arrears payment schedule.

Supreme Court's Verdict

Social Justice Measure:

- Section 125 CrPC as a secular social justice measure to protect women and children.
- Recognized the constitutional commitment under Article 15(3) for women's dignity.

Equivalent Rights:

- Maintenance rights under Section 125 CrPC and the 1986 Act exist parallelly.
- A divorced Muslim woman can claim maintenance under Section 125 CrPC independently.

Non-Obstante Clause:

- The clause in the 1986 Act does not bar concurrent relief under Section 125 CrPC.
- Provides an additional remedy without restricting rights under CrPC.

Harmonious Interpretation:

- Women can choose to apply for maintenance under either Section 125 CrPC or the 1986 Act.
- Financial independence dictates the applicable remedy.

Triple Talaq:

- Women divorced via triple talaq (declared unconstitutional in 2017) are also entitled to maintenance under Section 125 CrPC.

Constitutional Articles Cited

- Article 14: Right to equality.
- Article 15(1) & (3): Prohibition of discrimination and provision for special measures for women.
- Article 39(e): Right to an adequate means of livelihood for men and women equally.

Evolution of Maintenance Law

Section 125 of CrPC:

- Provides for maintenance for destitute wives, children, and parents.
- Allows a magistrate to order a person with sufficient means to maintain his wife.
- Includes divorced women who have not remarried, without specifying religion.

Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986:

- Enacted to counter the Supreme Court's 1985 decision in *Mohd. Ahmad Khan v. Shah Bano Begum*.
- Limits maintenance to the iddat period (three months after divorce).
- Maintenance includes the mahr or dowry amount.
- Allows women to seek maintenance from a first-class magistrate post-iddat if they have not remarried and cannot support themselves.

Key Judicial Precedents

- **Danial Latifi v. Union Of India (2001):** Upheld the 1986 Act but extended the maintenance right until the woman remarries.
- **Shabana Bano v. Imran Khan (2009):** Reiterated the right to claim maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC even post-iddat.
- **Patna High Court (2019):** Affirmed the right to maintenance under both CrPC and the 1986 Act.

Sunrise sectors

Syllabus: GS-3; Economy

Context

- Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Karnataka embraces '**Beyond Bengaluru**' to boost sunrise sectors in FY25.
- Collaborating with the state government, the industry body's Karnataka chapter will work on key areas such as technology and innovation, clean and alternative energy, GCC, MSME growth

About

- *"Sunrise sectors" refer to industries or sectors of the economy that are experiencing rapid growth and are expected to become increasingly important in the future.*
- *These sectors typically emerge due to technological advancements, changing consumer preferences, or new market opportunities.*
- *They are often characterized by innovation, high growth potential, and the potential to create significant economic impact.*

Examples

- **Information Technology (IT):** *This sector encompasses software development, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and digital services, driven by advancements in computing technology and the increasing reliance on digital infrastructure.*
- **Renewable Energy:** *With growing concerns about climate change and sustainability, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power are becoming increasingly important.*
This sector includes technologies for energy generation, storage, and distribution.
- **Biotechnology:** *This sector involves the use of biological systems and living organisms to develop products and technologies for various applications, including healthcare (pharmaceuticals, medical devices), agriculture (biofuels, genetically modified crops), and environmental conservation.*
- **E-commerce:** *With the rise of online shopping and digital payments, e-commerce has transformed retail and consumer behavior.*
This sector includes online marketplaces, e-retailers, and logistics and delivery services supporting online commerce.
- **Healthcare and Telemedicine:** *The healthcare sector is evolving with advancements in medical technology, personalized medicine, and telemedicine services, which allow remote diagnosis and treatment.*
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML):** *These technologies are driving innovation across various sectors, including finance (fintech), manufacturing (industry 4.0), healthcare (diagnostics, predictive analytics), and autonomous systems (self-driving vehicles).*

Medical Emergency

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science –diseases.

Context:

- *Bangalore Rural MP and former director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research C.N. Manjunath has urged the Karnataka government to **declare dengue as a “medical emergency”** in the State and called for stronger efforts to control breeding of mosquitoes.*

Health Emergency:

- *A health emergency refers to a situation that poses an immediate risk to health, lives, and well-being of individuals, which may require urgent intervention to prevent disease, injury, or other negative health impacts on a large scale.*

Declaration:

- **At the International Level:** *The World Health Organization (WHO) has the authority to declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).*
- **At the National Level (India):** *The Government of India, through its health authorities and agencies such as the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, can declare a health emergency.*

Criteria for Declaration:

- **Severity:** *The event poses a serious public health risk through the spread of disease or exposure to harmful agents.*
- **Unusual or Unexpected:** *The event is unusual or unexpected, causing significant illness or death.*
- **Potential for International Spread:** *There is a significant risk of international spread, requiring coordinated international response.*
- **Interference with International Travel or Trade:** *The event may cause restrictions on international travel or trade.*
- **Insufficient National Capacity:** *The affected country lacks the capacity to manage the outbreak effectively.*

Key Points:

PHEIC Declaration by WHO:

- *Based on the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005).*
- *Requires a formal declaration by the **Director-General of WHO.***
- *Triggered by a recommendation from the **IHR Emergency Committee.***

National Health Emergency (India):

- *May involve measures such as **lockdowns, quarantines, mass vaccination campaigns, or mobilization of medical resources.***
- *Coordinated by agencies like the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** and **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).***

Example:

- *The COVID-19 pandemic was declared a PHEIC by WHO on January 30, 2020, due to its rapid spread and severe impact on global health.*

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

Syllabus: GS-3; Environment and Ecology

Context

- *The principal bench of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** said it will decide whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) can continue utilising green funds meant to tackle **air pollution** for road repair and paving by clubbing the issue with another matter on poor air quality in 53 cities.*

About

- *CPCB stands for the Central Pollution Control Board. It is a statutory organization under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in India.*
- *Established in 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**, CPCB is responsible for coordinating environmental matters, conducting research, and providing technical assistance to the central and state governments on environmental issues.*

Functions

- **Pollution Control:** *Formulating policies and strategies for the prevention and control of pollution in various sectors such as air, water, and noise.*
- **Monitoring:** *Monitoring environmental quality through network stations across the country and analyzing data to assess pollution levels.*
- **Regulation:** *Enforcing regulatory measures and standards for industries and other sources of pollution to ensure compliance with environmental laws.*

- **Research and Development:** *Conducting research, studies, and training programs to promote sustainable development and environmental conservation.*
- **Coordination:** *Coordinating with central and state government agencies, industries, and other stakeholders to implement pollution control measures and policies effectively.*
- **Public Awareness:** *Creating awareness among the public about environmental issues, pollution control, and sustainable practices through education and outreach programs.*

Indicators

- *The CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) color codes are used in India to visually indicate the level of pollution in various areas.*
- *These color codes help the public and authorities quickly understand the air quality and take appropriate actions if necessary. The CPCB color codes typically include six categories based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) ranges:*
 - **Green:** *AQI 0-50 (Good) - Indicates minimal impact on public health. Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.*
 - **Yellow:** *AQI 51-100 (Satisfactory) - Indicates acceptable air quality for most individuals. However, there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.*
 - **Orange:** *AQI 101-200 (Moderate) - Indicates that the air quality is acceptable; however, there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.*
 - **Red:** *AQI 201-300 (Poor) - Indicates that air quality is unhealthy. Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.*
 - **Purple:** *AQI 301-400 (Very Poor) - Indicates that the air quality is very unhealthy and can have serious health effects on everyone.*
 - **Maroon:** *AQI 401-500 (Severe) - Indicates that the air quality is hazardous and poses a serious health risk. The entire population is likely to be affected.*

Significance

- *CPCB plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's environment and **promoting sustainable development** by addressing various environmental challenges and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.*

CPCB Green Funds

- The term "CPCB Green Funds" typically refers to financial resources allocated or managed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in India for environmental conservation and pollution control initiatives.
- These funds are aimed at supporting projects and activities that promote sustainable development, reduce pollution levels, and enhance environmental quality across the country.

Key aspects of CPCB Green Funds

- **Purpose:** The funds are used to finance various environmental projects and activities that align with CPCB's objectives of pollution control, environmental monitoring, and conservation.
- **Sources:** CPCB Green Funds may be sourced from government allocations, environmental levies, fines collected from polluting industries, and contributions from other stakeholders.
- **Utilization:** The funds are utilized for implementing projects such as:
 - Installation and operation of pollution control equipment.
 - Conducting environmental impact assessments and studies.
 - Promoting cleaner production technologies in industries.
 - Research and development initiatives related to environmental conservation.
 - Awareness and capacity-building programs on environmental issues.
- **Monitoring and Accountability:** CPCB ensures proper monitoring and evaluation of projects funded by Green Funds to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective utilization of resources.
- **Impact:** The ultimate goal of CPCB Green Funds is to mitigate environmental pollution, improve air and water quality, conserve natural resources, and promote sustainable development practices.