



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 15-08-2024**

### **GS-2**

1. Egg or sperm has no legal right on child: Bombay High Court
2. Jiyo parsi scheme

### **GS-3**

3. Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB)- GAURAV
4. Does India have laws on the movement of ballast water?
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## Egg or sperm has no legal right on child: Bombay High Court

### Syllabus: GS-2; Judicial Interventions

#### Context

- *A sperm or egg donor has no legal right on the child and cannot claim to be its biological parent, the Bombay High Court held while allowing a 42-year-old woman visitation rights to her five-year-old twin daughters.*

#### What is the case?

- *The woman, in her plea, said her daughters, born via surrogacy, were living with her husband and younger sister, who was the egg donor.*
- *The petitioner's husband had claimed since his sister-in-law was the egg donor, she had a legitimate right to be called a biological parent of the twins and that his wife had no right over them.*
- *A single bench of Justice Milind Jadhav, however, refused to accept this contention, citing that though the petitioner's younger sister was the egg donor, she has no legitimate right to claim that she is a biological parent of the twins.*

#### To know

- **Legal Ruling:** *The Bombay High Court ruled that neither an egg donor nor a sperm donor has any legal rights over a child born through assisted reproductive technology (ART).*
- **Rights and Obligations:** *The court clarified that all rights and responsibilities regarding the child rest solely with the intended parents.*
- **Relevant Law:** *This decision aligns with the provisions of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021.*
- **Genetic Link:** *The genetic connection of a donor does not entitle them to parental rights or obligations.*
- **Child's Best Interests:** *The ruling reinforces the legal protection of the child's best interests and the integrity of the intended family formed through ART.*
- **Parental Rights Clarity:** *The judgment ensures that donors cannot claim custody or visitation rights, providing legal clarity and security for ART families.*

## **Jiyo parsi scheme**

### **Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions**

#### **Context**

- *The Jiyo Parsi Scheme is a government initiative launched by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, with the primary objective of reversing the declining population trend of the Parsi community in India.*
- *This community, known for its rich cultural heritage and contributions to the country's development, has been facing a steady decline in its population due to various demographic challenges.*

#### **Key Objectives**

- **Population Stabilization:** *The scheme aims to stabilize and increase the population of the Parsi community by addressing the issues of infertility and delayed marriages.*
- **Awareness and Advocacy:** *Promotes awareness about the declining population trend and encourages early marriage and childbirth within the community.*
- **Support for Infertility Treatment:** *Provides financial assistance to Parsi couples who need medical interventions like In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) to conceive.*
- **Counseling Services:** *Offers counseling for couples and individuals to address concerns related to marriage, family planning, and parenting.*

#### **Components of the Scheme**

- **Advocacy and Outreach:** *This component focuses on creating awareness about the declining population and the importance of increasing family size within the Parsi community.*
- **Medical Assistance:** *Financial support is provided for infertility treatment, including IVF and other assisted reproductive technologies (ART).*
- **Counseling and Support:** *Counseling services are provided to address mental and emotional concerns related to family planning, marriage, and parenthood.*

#### **Impact and Significance**

- **Population Growth:** *The scheme has contributed to a gradual increase in the birth rate within the Parsi community, helping to stabilize its population.*
- **Cultural Preservation:** *By addressing the declining population, the scheme plays a crucial role in preserving the unique cultural and religious heritage of the Parsis.*
- **Empowerment:** *The scheme empowers Parsi couples to take proactive steps toward building families, thereby contributing to the overall well-being of the community.*

#### **Challenges**

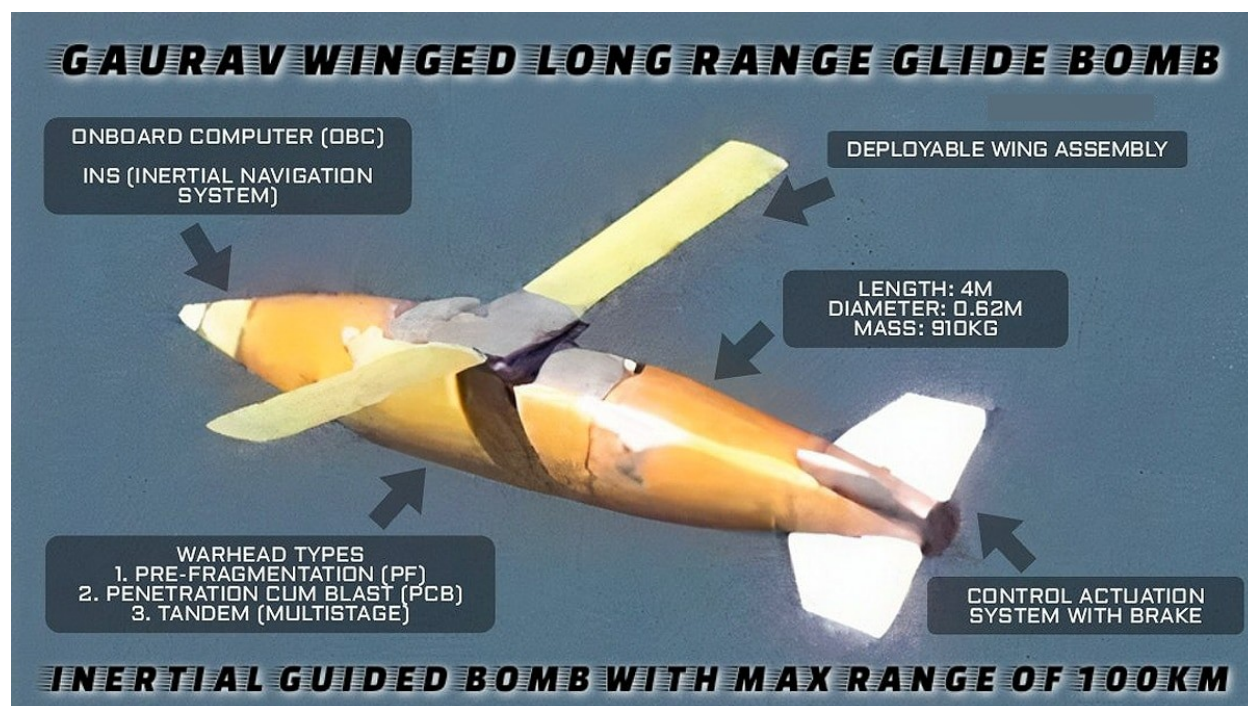
- **Social Stigma:** *Despite the availability of medical assistance, some couples may face social stigma associated with infertility treatments, which could deter them from seeking help.*
- **Limited Reach:** *The scheme's impact is limited to the Parsi community, and its success depends on widespread participation and awareness.*

## **Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB)- GAURAV**

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

### **Context**

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** *successfully carried out maiden test flight of Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), GAURAV from Sukhoi-30 MK-I of the Indian Air Force.*
- *GAURAV is an air-launched one thousand-kilogram class glide bomb, capable of hitting targets at long distances.*



### **About**

- *A Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) is an advanced precision-guided munition that combines the capabilities of a bomb and a missile, designed to strike targets at extended ranges with high accuracy.*
- *These bombs are equipped with aerodynamic surfaces that allow them to glide towards their target after being released from an aircraft, significantly extending their range compared to conventional bombs.*

### Features and Capabilities

- **Extended Range:** *LRGBs can cover distances ranging from tens to hundreds of kilometers, depending on their design and the altitude at which they are released. This extended range allows aircraft to strike targets from a safer distance, beyond the range of enemy air defenses.*
- **Precision Guidance:** *Equipped with advanced guidance systems, such as GPS, INS (Inertial Navigation System), or laser-guidance, LRGBs can accurately hit both stationary and moving targets. Some variants also feature terminal guidance systems that adjust the bomb's trajectory in the final moments before impact.*
- **Payload Versatility:** *LRGBs can carry various types of warheads, including high-explosive, penetrative, or fragmentation warheads, making them suitable for a wide range of targets, from fortified bunkers to soft-skinned vehicles.*
- **Stealth and Survivability:** *Due to their glide capability, LRGBs can be launched from low-observable aircraft or from high altitudes, reducing the exposure of the launching platform to enemy radar and air defenses.*
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** *Compared to cruise missiles, LRGBs are relatively cost-effective, offering a balance between precision and affordability for military operations.*

### Strategic Significance

- **Force Multiplier:** *LRGBs enhance the strike capabilities of air forces by allowing them to engage high-value targets from a distance, thereby reducing the risk to aircraft and pilots.*
- **Deterrence and Power Projection:** *The ability to strike deep within enemy territory with precision makes LRGBs a potent tool for deterrence and power projection in modern warfare.*
- **Integration with Modern Platforms:** *LRGBs are designed to be compatible with a variety of aircraft, including fighter jets, bombers, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), increasing their operational flexibility.*
- **Use in Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) Environments:** *LRGBs are particularly useful in A2/AD scenarios where adversaries deploy extensive air defense systems. The long-range capability allows attacking forces to bypass these defenses while still effectively engaging key targets.*

## **Does India have laws on the movement of ballast water?**

### **Syllabus: GS-3: Marine pollution**

#### **Context:**

- *Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (WRD) has requested ₹160 crore from Kamarajar Port in Ennore.*
- *The funds are needed to remove invasive mussels, specifically the charru mussel (*Mytellastrigata*), that are damaging marine ecosystems and affecting fishermen's livelihoods.*

#### **WRD's Charge:**

- *The WRD holds Kamarajar Port responsible for the spread of invasive species due to improper regulation of ballast water from ships.*

### **Understanding Ballast Water**

- **Purpose:**
  - *Ships need ballast water to maintain stability after discharging cargo, ensuring proper immersion in water.*
  - **Ballast water is taken into tanks** when cargo is unloaded and is discharged when cargo is loaded.
- **Regulation:**
  - *Historically, there were no regulations on the intake and discharge of ballast water, which often carried invasive species to new locations, disrupting local ecosystems.*

### **The Seriousness of the Invasive Species Problem**

- **Impact in India:**
  - *Nearly 30 invasive species have been recorded in Indian waters due to ballast water from ships.*
  - *The **charru mussel (*Mytellastrigata*)** is particularly harmful, replacing native species in Pulicat Lake, Tamil Nadu, and Ashtamudi Lake, Kerala.*



- *The mussel's high survival rate and adaptability to fresh water make it a **significant threat to local biodiversity.***

### Global Regulations on Ballast Water

#### ➤ **Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention:**

- *Implemented by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** in 2017.*
- *Requires ships to manage ballast water to remove or neutralize harmful organisms before discharging in a new location.*

#### ➤ **Requirements for Ships:**

- *New ships with ballast water management systems must treat ballast water with chemicals to ensure it is biologically safe before discharge.*
- *Older ships without such systems are required to exchange ballast water taken at ports with oceanic water during transit to prevent the spread of invasive species.*

#### ➤ **Stringent Enforcement:**

- *Countries **like Australia and New Zealand** are highly proactive in enforcing ballast water regulations to protect sensitive ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef.*

### India's Position on Ballast Water Management

#### ➤ **Current Status:**

- *India has **not signed the BWM Convention**, meaning there are no mandatory regulations for ballast water management at Indian ports.*
- *Other environmental regulations, such as oil discharge, are enforced, but **ballast water discharge is not regulated.***

#### ➤ **Legal Implications:**

- *According to maritime law expert V. J. Mathew, ports facilitate ship traffic but are not liable for the consequences of ballast water discharge.*
- *Vessel owners may be held accountable if laws are in place, highlighting the need for India to adopt the **BWM Convention** to protect its marine ecosystems.*

## **FloodWatch India**

### **Syllabus: GS-3: Disaster Management – Floods.**

### **Context:**

- *Union Minister Shri C.R. Paatil launches Version 2.0 of 'FloodWatch India' mobile app; to enable extensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country.*

### **About FloodWatch India**

- **Initial Launch:** *First version released on 17th August 2023.*
- **Purpose:** *Disseminate real-time flood information and forecasts up to 7 days to the public via mobile phones.*

### **Enhancements in Version 2.0**

- **Expanded Coverage:**
  - *Added 392 flood monitoring stations.*
  - *Total stations now number 592.*
- **Reservoir Data:**
  - *Provides storage positions of 150 major reservoirs.*
  - *Aids in understanding potential downstream flood situations.*

### **Technical Features**

- **Advanced Technologies Used:**
  - *Satellite data analysis.*
  - *Mathematical modeling.*
  - *Real-time monitoring.*
- **User Interface:**
  - *Available in English and Hindi.*
  - *Information presented in readable and audio broadcast formats.*
- **Nearest Location Feature:**
  - *Users can check flood situations at the station nearest to them directly from the home page.*