



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 18-04-2024**

### **GS-1**

1. Current heatwave and extreme sea level (CHWESL)
2. Iran

### **GS-3**

3. Curative petition
4. Election symbols

### **GS-3**

5. Zombie drug crisis

## **Current heatwave and extreme sea level (CHWESL)**

### **Syllabus: GS-1; Physical Geography- Monsoon**

#### **Context**

- *Recent research reveals a concerning escalation in the simultaneous occurrence of heatwaves and extreme sea level rises along coastlines worldwide.*

#### **About**

- *A so-called 'concurrent heatwave and extreme sea level' (CHWESL) event is when a **heatwave and an extreme short-term sea level rise occur at the same coastal location over the same time period.***
- *This can pose a serious threat to coastal communities.*
- *Yet, there has so far been little research into the characteristics and occurrences of these events.*

#### **Impact**

- *CHWESL events could pose a significant **threat to coastal communities**, particularly from the risks of excess heat to human health.*
- *They note that countries in tropical areas are likely to be the most severely affected, and that many of these countries are low or middle-income countries which may struggle to cope with the effects.*

## **Iran**

### **Syllabus: GS-1; Mapping**

#### **Context**

- *Amid Iran-Israel conflict, the article here discusses geographical Mapping of Iran.*

#### **About**

- *Iran, also known as Persia and officially the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), is a country in West Asia.*
- *It is bordered by **Iraq to the west and Turkey to the northwest, Azerbaijan, Armenia, the Caspian Sea and Turkmenistan to the north, Afghanistan to the east, Pakistan to the southeast, the Gulf of Oman & the Persian Gulf to the south.***



- Iran ranks 17th in the world in both geographic size and population.
- The country is divided into five regions with 31 provinces.
- The nation's capital and most populous city is **Tehran**, with around 16 million people in its metropolitan area, other major urban centres include Mashhad, Isfahan, Karaj, and Shiraz.
- Iran is one of the **world's oldest civilizations**, beginning with the Elamites in the fourth millennium BC
- Iran is a major emerging, middle and regional power, due to its large reserves of fossil fuels, including the **world's second largest natural gas supply, third largest proven oil reserves**, its strategic location in the Asian continent, its military capabilities, its regional influence, and its role as the **world's focal point of Shia Islam**.
- It is a founding member of the United Nations, the ECO, the OIC, the OPEC, the G77, the SCO, and a member of BRICS.
- Iran consists of the Iranian Plateau, with the exception of the coasts of the **Caspian Sea and Khuzestan**.

- *One of the most famous animals of Iran is the **critically endangered Asiatic cheetah (Acinonyx jubatus venaticus)**, which today survives only in Iran.*

## **Curative petition**

**Syllabus: GS-2; Supreme Court**

### **Context**

- *The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** will not have to pay nearly Rs 8,000 crore to the **Delhi Airport Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL)**, an Anil-Ambani owned Reliance Infrastructure company, which was awarded by a 2017 arbitral award.*
- *The court has now exercised its **“extraordinary powers”** in a curative writ petition to correct a **“fundamental error”** in its judgment.*

### **What Is a Curative Petition?**


- *A curative petition also known as the 'final remedy' can be filed after a review plea against the final judgment is dismissed.*
- *When the Supreme Court delivers a judgment, that petitioner can file a review petition against the verdict within 30 days.*
- **Curative petition as the name suggests is for avoiding or correcting miscarriage of justice and to prevent abuse of process.**
- *The concept of the curative petition is derived from **Article 137** of the Constitution.*
- *Also under **Article 145**, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgement pronounced by it.*
- *The court entertains a review petition when the petitioner shows it that there was a violation of the **principles of natural justice**, and that he was not heard by the court.*
- *It is done in rare cases.*
- *A curative petition is placed before three senior-most judges as well as the judges who passed the judgment (if available.) When the majority of judges in front of whom the curative plea is placed decide that the plea can be heard, the petition is allowed.*
- *In case the bench finds that curative plea had no merits it can also impose costs on petitioner.*

### **Origin Of Curative Petition:**

- The concept of curative petition can be traced back to the **Rupa Hurra vs Ashok Hurra case** where a 5-Judge Constitution Bench recognised ‘Curative Petitions’ as a final remedy after a review petition was dismissed.
- It was ruled that the apex court can entertain a curative petition if it finds that there has been a violation of principles of natural justice, or there has been a question of bias against the presiding judge; or if there has been an abuse of the process of the court.
- It was ruled that the court should consider such petitions only in rare circumstances.

### The Delhi Metro Case

**JOURNEY OF THE DISPUTE**



Reliance-led consortium had won the bid to operate the Airport Metro. file

<b>2008:</b> DAMEPL wins 30-year build, operate, transfer contract	<b>MAR 2018:</b> Single judge Delhi HC Bench refuses to interfere with arbitral award.
<b>FEB 2011:</b> Line becomes operational	<b>JAN 2019:</b> Two-judge Bench of the HC sets aside the arbitral award
<b>APR 2012:</b> DAMEPL seeks to delay payment to DMRC	<b>SEPT 2021:</b> Two-judge SC Bench restores arbitral award
<b>OCT 2012:</b> DAMEPL formally initiates termination of agreement	<b>NOV 2021:</b> SC dismisses review petition against its judgment
<b>JUNE 2013:</b> Arbitration proceedings begin	<b>AUG 2022:</b> Centre files curative petition
<b>MAY 2017:</b> Arbitration panel decides in favour of DAMEPL	<b>APR 2024:</b> SC restores 2019 HC ruling

## Election symbols

Syllabus: GS-2; Elections

Context

- *Election symbols are crucial to a party's identity, and help voters recognise candidates.*
- *Here in this article we'll be discussing What is the history of the iconic election symbols of the country's oldest and largest parties, the Congress' 'Hand', and the BJP's 'Lotus'?*

### **Beginning of India's election symbols**

- *Before the **first Lok Sabha election of 1951-52**, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** realised that election symbols were critical in a country where the literacy rate was less than 20%.*
- *It was decided that symbols should be familiar and easily recognisable, and should not show any object with a religious or sentimental association, such as cow, temple, the National Flag, spinning wheel, etc.*
- *Parties that were recognised as national and state parties, were offered choices from a list of 26 symbols approved by the ECI.*

### **How are election symbols allotted in India?**

- *At present, Rules 5 and 10 of the **Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961** deal with symbols.*
- *Rule 5 states that the ECI shall "specify the symbols that may be chosen by candidates at elections in parliamentary or assembly constituencies and the restrictions to which their choice shall be subject".*
- *The **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968** defines a "reserved symbol" as one that is "reserved for a recognised political party for exclusive allotment to [its] contesting candidates".*
- *A "free symbol" is "a symbol other than a reserved symbol".*
- *Free symbols are allotted to independents and unrecognised registered parties based on their request and preferences.*

### **What do the rules specify?**

- *A party is recognised as a 'national' or 'state' party under the provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 (Symbols Order) by the Election Commission of India (ECI).*
- *The criteria for recognition at the State level consists of*
  - (a) winning one Lok Sabha seat for every 25 seats or 3% of Legislative Assembly seats or*
  - (b) winning one Lok Sabha or two Assembly seats along with 6% of votes polled or*
  - (c) securing 8% of votes polled in a general election.*
- *Symbols are allotted to political parties and contesting candidates as per the provisions of the Symbols Order by ECI.*



- *In the largest democracy where a sizeable population is still illiterate, symbols play a crucial role in the voting process.*
- **A recognised political party has a reserved symbol that is not allotted to any other candidate in any constituency.**
- *For registered but unrecognised political parties, one of the free symbols is allotted as a common symbol during an election if that party contests in two Lok Sabha constituencies or in 5% of seats to the Assembly of a State as the case may be.*

## **Zombie drug crisis**

### **Syllabus: GS-3; Security**

#### **Context**

- **Xylazine, or “tranq”** is the new drug wreaking major havoc in cities across the US. Reports say the deadly symptoms include skin rotting and "zombifying" people.
- This '**zombie drug**' was approved for veterinary use by the country's **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** and was used to cut heroin, but it was recently discovered in fentanyl and other illicit drugs, according to the reports.
- Xylazine, a non-opioid, is not safe for humans because an overdose prevents one from responding to **naloxone, or Narcan**—the most commonly used overdose reversal treatment.

#### **Symptoms**

- With repeated exposure, the drug causes symptoms such as **excessive sleepiness, respiratory depression, and raw wounds, which can become severe and spread quickly.**
- If the ulcers are not treated, they can turn into dead they can turn into **dead skin called eschar, which necessitates amputation.**
- In 2021, Philadelphia reported that 90% of lab-tested dope samples contained xylazine, which raises the risk of overdose when combined with other illegal substances.
- The appeal of xylazine stems from the fact that it prolongs the high of opioids such as fentanyl.
- However, people suffering from substance abuse disorders claimed that the new drug has snuffed out "**any kind of joy**" associated with getting high.

- *According to the New York City Department of Health, 2,668 people died in New York from xylazine overdoses in 2021, and experts believe that xylazine could exacerbate the ongoing drug epidemic.*

### **How is Xylazine "Zombifying people's bodies"?**

- *Sam the 28-year-old said that he has struggled with a substance use disorder since the age of 14, adding that he has been in and out of treatment for many years of his life.*
- *Xylazine outbreaks of **skin infections and overdoses**.*
- *The national spread of xylazine is a public health threat as Xylazine overdose is usually fatal in humans.*
- *Because it is used as a drug adulterant, the symptoms caused by the drugs accompanying xylazine administration vary between individuals.*

### **Know more**

#### **What does zombie mean?**

- *It refers to a human who lacks the ability to speak or move (as in voodoo belief and in fictional stories), and who is believed to have died and been supernaturally reanimated.*
- *It also refers to a supernatural force that, in voodoo belief, may enter into a dead body and reanimate it.*