



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 23-07-2024

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Chandra Shekhar Azad

Syllabus: GS-1; Modern India History

Context

- **Chandra Shekhar Azad Birth Anniversary 2024:** *Celebrating a Revolutionary Icon of India's Freedom Struggle*



Early Life and Education

- **Birth:** Chandrashekhar Azad was born on July 23, 1906, in Bhavra, a village in present-day Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Parents:** His father, Sitaram Tiwari, and his mother, Jagrani Devi, were from a humble background.
- **Education:** Azad's early education took place in Bhavra. He later moved to Varanasi, where he enrolled in the Kashi Vidyapeeth for further studies.

Involvement in the Indian Freedom Movement

- **Non-Cooperation Movement:** Azad was deeply inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's call for the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921. At the age of 15, he actively participated and was arrested for the first time.
- **First Arrest:** Upon his arrest, he declared his name as "Azad" (the free), his father's name as "Swatantrata" (freedom), and his residence as "Jail." This bold declaration earned him the name Chandrashekhar Azad.

Shift to Revolutionary Activities

- **Disillusionment:** *Disappointed by the abrupt end of the Non-Cooperation Movement, Azad became increasingly inclined towards revolutionary activities to secure India's freedom.*
- **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA):** *He joined the Hindustan Republican Association, founded by Sachindra Nath Sanyal, and later worked closely with Ram Prasad Bismil.*
- **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA):** *In 1928, the HRA was restructured and renamed the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. Azad was a key member, advocating for the use of armed struggle against British rule.*

Major Activities and Contributions

- **Kakori Conspiracy (1925):** *Azad played a crucial role in the Kakori train robbery, aimed at looting government funds to support the revolutionary activities.*
- **Lahore Conspiracy (1928):** *Azad was involved in the assassination of J.P. Saunders in Lahore, an act of revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, who was injured during a lathi charge by the police and subsequently died.*
- **Formation of Bomb Factories:** *He established bomb-making factories in various cities to aid the revolutionary cause, emphasizing self-reliance in armament production.*

Ideology and Vision

- **Socialism:** *Azad was a proponent of socialist principles, advocating for a society free from exploitation and inequality.*
- **Independence through Armed Struggle:** *He firmly believed that armed resistance was essential to overthrow British rule, differing from the non-violent approach led by Gandhi.*

Legacy and Martyrdom

- **Encounter and Death:** *On February 27, 1931, Azad was surrounded by the police in Alfred Park, Allahabad (now Prayagraj). He fought valiantly and, when left with no options, shot himself to avoid capture, staying true to his vow of never being caught alive by the British.*
- **Symbol of Courage:** *Azad remains a symbol of courage and resistance in the Indian freedom struggle. His life and sacrifices continue to inspire generations of Indians.*

Impact on Indian Freedom Struggle

- **Inspiration to Revolutionaries:** *Azad's fearless attitude and revolutionary zeal inspired many young Indians to join the freedom movement.*

- **Continued Struggle:** *His actions and leadership kept the spirit of resistance alive, contributing significantly to the eventual independence of India in 1947.*

Conclusion

- *Chandrashekar Azad's life was a testament to unwavering dedication to India's freedom.*
- *His fearless nature and revolutionary actions played a crucial role in challenging British colonial rule, making him an enduring icon of India's independence movement.*

Article 361

Syllabus: GS-2; Polity- Governor

Context:

- *What is Governor's immunity under Article 361, set to be reviewed by Supreme Court?*

About Article 361:

- **Article 361:** *Provides immunity to the President and Governors from criminal prosecution and judicial scrutiny.*
- **Clause 1:** *Shields the President and Governor from answering to any court for their official duties.*
- **Clause 2 & 3:** *Prevents criminal proceedings and arrest or imprisonment while in office.*

Present Case:

- **Petitioner:** *A contractual woman employee from West Bengal Raj Bhavan accused Governor C V Ananda Bose of sexual harassment.*
- **Significance:** *The case questions if immunity bars registration of FIR, preliminary inquiry, or magistrate's cognisance of an offence.*

Origins of Governor's Immunity

- **Latin Maxim:** *"Rex non potest peccare" - The king can do no wrong.*
- **Constituent Assembly:** *Adopted the provision with minimal debate on criminal immunity.*

Judicial Interpretations

- **State vs Kalyan Singh (2017):**

- *Case: Babri Masjid demolition.*
- *Ruling: Immunity upheld while Singh was Governor; trial to proceed post tenure.*
- **Madhya Pradesh High Court (2015):**
 - *Case: Vyapam scam.*
 - *Ruling: Investigation allowed, Governor's name effaced until tenure ends.*
- **Rameshwar Prasad vs Union of India (2006):**
 - *Case: Bihar Assembly dissolution.*
 - *Ruling: Governor's immunity does not prevent judicial review of actions taken in bad faith.*

Current Debate

- **Context:** *Increasing political tussles between Governors and state governments.*
- **Comparative Perspective:** *US Supreme Court's ruling on immunity for official acts, not personal acts.*

Implications

- **Rights Violation:** *Petitioner argues immunity could lead to rights violations and impact evidence.*
- **Future Hearings:** *Case to be heard on August 12.*

What Is Gender Gap in Education?

Syllabus: GS-2: Social justice – Women empowerment – Gender Justice.

Context:

- **The World Economic Forum (WEF) report of 2024 on global gender gaps recently ranked India at 129 out of 146 economies, with a decline in the education sector being one of the reasons for India's rank slipping a couple of places this year.**

Key Highlights

- **WEF Report 2024:** *India ranked 129 out of 146 economies.*

- **Decline in Education Sector:** *Major reason for the rank slip.*
- **Previous Year Comparison:** *India slipped a couple of places from the previous ranking.*

Educational Attainment and Gender Parity

- **Current Status:**
 - *India ranks 124th in educational attainment with a score of 0.964.*
 - *Previous perfect score of 1.000 in 2023.*
- **Literacy Gap:**
 - *The literacy rate gap between men and women is 17.2 percentage points.*

Indian Educational Statistics

- **Primary to Higher Education Enrolment:**
 - **UDISE+ 2021-22:**
 - *Boys: 13.79 crore.*
 - *Girls: 12.73 crore (48% of school population).*
 - **Stages of School Education:**
 - *Preschool: Girls make up 46.8%.*
 - *Primary (Classes 1-5): Girls make up 47.8%.*
 - *Upper Primary (Classes 6-8): Girls make up 48.3%.*
 - *Secondary (Classes 9-10): Girls make up 47.9%.*
 - *Higher Secondary (Classes 11-12): Girls make up 48.3%.*
 - **Higher Education (AISHE 2021-22):**
 - *Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for women: 28.5.*
 - *GER for men: 28.3.*
 - *Female enrolment increase since 2014-15: 32%.*

Impact of Incentives for Girls' Education

- **Infrastructure Development:** *More schools built, especially since the mid-90s.*

- **Regional Differences:** *Variations in enrolment based on availability of secondary and higher secondary schools.*
- **Role of Women Teachers:** *Higher enrolment in areas with more women teachers.*
- **Transportation and Facilities:**
 - *Free bus passes and cycles in states like Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar.*
 - *Sanitation issues remain a challenge; insufficient funding for washroom maintenance.*

Challenges and Future Directions

- **Boys' Education:** *Concerns about boys dropping out before completing school.*
- **Regional and Discipline-wise Enrolment:**
 - *Women in STEM subjects: 42.5% from undergraduate to Ph.D. levels.*
- **Adult Literacy:**
 - *Women: 64.63%.*
 - *Men: 80.88% (Census 2011).*
 - *Need to improve foundational literacy and rural women's education.*

Practice Question

Q. Analyze the factors contributing to India's decline in the Global Gender Gap Index 2024 with a focus on educational disparities, and suggest measures to improve gender parity in education. (10 marks, 150 words)

Tirzepatide

Syllabus: GS-3: General Science – drugs and medicines.

Context:

- *India could soon allow 'game-changing' weight-loss drug tirzepatide: How it works, its side effects.*

Introduction

- *Development of various weight loss drugs has significantly advanced obesity treatment in recent years, **particularly in the US and Europe.***
- *These drugs are **not yet commercially available in India** due to pending regulatory clearances and high demand abroad.*

Recent Developments in India

- *An expert committee of India's drug regulator recently recommended approval of the drug tirzepatide.*
- *Upon final approval, Eli Lilly can launch tirzepatide in the Indian market.*

Zepbound (Tirzepatide)

- *Approved by US FDA in November 2023 for obesity treatment.*
- *Derived from Mounjaro, another type 2 diabetes medication.*

Mechanism of Action of Tirzepatide

- *Polypeptide targeting GLP-1 and GIP receptors.*
- *Combined action enhances weight control through brain and digestive tract.*
- *Claimed to provide more significant effects due to dual hormone action.*

Side Effects

- *Common side effects include **nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal pain, indigestion, injection-site reactions, fatigue, allergic reactions, belching, hair loss, and heartburn.***
- ***Risk of thyroid tumors, including thyroid cancer.***
- ***Contraindications:** Individuals or family members with a history of medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC) or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN 2).*

SCOMET list

Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Critical materials.

Context:

- *Recently, SCOMET list was in news due to various reasons.*

About SCOMET list:

- *The SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies) list is **crucial for India's export control regime.***
- *It outlines items that require authorization from the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** before they can be exported from India.*

Key Points:

- **Purpose:**
 - *The SCOMET list aims to prevent the **proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)** and their delivery systems.*
 - *It ensures that sensitive items and technologies **do not fall into the wrong hands**, contributing to global non-proliferation efforts.*
- **Regulatory Framework:**
 - *Governed by the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP)** of India.*
 - *Export authorization is **mandated by DGFT.***
 - *Compliance with international export control regimes such as the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).*
- **Categories:**
 - **Category 0:** *Nuclear materials, facilities, and related equipment.*
 - **Category 1:** *Toxic chemical agents and other chemicals.*
 - **Category 2:** *Microorganisms, toxins, and biological equipment.*
 - **Category 3:** *Materials, materials processing equipment.*
 - **Category 4:** *Electronics.*
 - **Category 5:** *Computers.*
 - **Category 6:** *Telecommunications, information security.*
 - **Category 7:** *Sensors and lasers.*
 - **Category 8:** *Navigation and avionics.*

- **Category 9: Aerospace and propulsion.**
- **Process for Export:**
 - *Exporters must apply for a license from DGFT.*
 - *License application must include end-user certificate, technical specifications, and intended use.*
 - *Applications are reviewed by an Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) comprising representatives from relevant ministries and departments.*
- **Significance for National Security:**
 - *Ensures that strategic materials and technologies are exported responsibly.*
 - *Helps India fulfill its international obligations under various non-proliferation treaties.*
 - *Enhances national security by controlling the export of dual-use items that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.*
- **Compliance and Penalties:**
 - *Strict compliance is required; violations can lead to severe penalties including fines, imprisonment, and suspension of export privileges.*
 - *Regular audits and inspections ensure adherence to export control regulations.*