



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 28-08-2024

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1. Anticipatory Bail under SC/ST act
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4. PM Jhan Dhan Yojana
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Anticipatory Bail under SC/ST act

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Laws.

Context:

- *The Supreme Court ruled that insults or intimidation against members of **Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)** are offences under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, only if the actions are based on caste.*
- *The court emphasized that not every insult results in caste-based humiliation, and the context of the insult is crucial.*

Preliminary Inquiry:

- *Courts can conduct preliminary inquiries to determine if a complaint genuinely discloses a caste-related offence under the SC/ST Act.*
- *This inquiry helps prevent misuse of the Act in cases where the offence may not be related to caste.*

Anticipatory Bail:

- **Definition:**
 - *Anticipatory bail is a legal provision that allows a person fearing arrest for a non-bailable offence to seek bail in advance.*
 - *Governed by Section 438 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), now updated under Section 482 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (2023).*
- **Purpose:**
 - *It prevents arbitrary or unjustified arrests by allowing the accused to avoid jail time until they can present their case in court.*

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:

- **Objective:**
 - *The Act aims to protect SC/ST members from atrocities and discrimination.*
 - *It recognizes specific forms of violence and discrimination against SC/ST members and provides for the establishment of Special Courts to try such offences.*

➤ **Key Features:**

- **Punishable Offences:** *Includes offences like manual scavenging, dedication as devadasi, and denial of access to public resources.*
- **Neglect of Duties:** *Public servants who fail to enforce the provisions of the Act or neglect their duties are also punishable under this Act.*
- **Victim Relief:** *The Act provides for various forms of relief and protection for victims of such offences.*

➤ **Impact:**

- *The Act is instrumental in safeguarding the rights and dignity of SC/ST communities by legally addressing social injustices and providing a framework for their protection.*

Implications of the Ruling:

➤ **Judicial Caution:**

- *The ruling ensures that the SC/ST Act is applied judiciously, preventing its misuse while safeguarding genuine cases of caste-based atrocities.*
- *It stresses the importance of context and intent in determining the applicability of the Act.*

➤ **Legal Precedent:**

- *The ruling sets a precedent for future cases, where courts must ascertain the caste-based nature of the offence before applying the SC/ST Act.*
- *It reinforces the balance between protecting the rights of SC/ST members and preventing the misuse of protective laws.*

BioE3 Policy

Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

Context

- *Cabinet approves BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing.*



Narendra Modi ✓

@narendramodi



The BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy that has been approved by the Cabinet is a landmark initiative that will foster High Performance Bio-manufacturing. This will also encourage scientific, industrial and societal advancements in the times to come. Other benefits include environmental preservation and employment creation.

pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...

BioE3- Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing

Cabinet approves: BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High Performance Biomanufacturing'

Salient features

- ◆ Innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors
- ◆ Acceleration of technology development and commercialization by establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry
- ◆ Prioritizing regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth
- ◆ Facilitating expansion of India's skilled workforce and providing a surge in job creation

Benefits

- ◆ Strengthening Government's initiatives such as 'Net Zero' carbon economy & 'Lifestyle for Environment'
- ◆ Steering India on the path of accelerated 'Green Growth' by promoting 'Circular Bioeconomy'
- ◆ Fostering and advancing future that is more sustainable, innovative, and responsive to global challenges
- ◆ Laying down the Bio-vision for Viksit Bharat

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Salient features

- *The salient features of BioE3 policy include **innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors.***
- *This will **accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry.***
- *Along with **prioritizing regenerative bioeconomy models of green growth**, this policy will facilitate expansion of India's skilled workforce and provide a surge in job creation.*
- *To address the national priorities, the BioE3 Policy would broadly focus on the following strategic/thematic sectors:*
 - *high value bio-based chemicals, biopolymers & enzymes;*

- *smart proteins & functional foods;*
- *precision biotherapeutics;*
- *climate resilient agriculture;*
- *carbon capture & its utilization;*
- *marine and space research.*

Significance

- *Overall, this Policy will further strengthen Government's initiatives such as 'Net Zero' carbon economy & 'Lifestyle for Environment' and will steer India on the path of accelerated 'Green Growth' by promoting 'Circular Bioeconomy'.*
- *The BioE3 Policy will foster and advance future that is more sustainable, innovative, and responsive to global challenges and lays down the Bio-vision for Viksit Bharat.*

India-Ukraine Relations

Syllabus: GS-2; International Relations

Context

- *India, Ukraine sign four agreements to provide **for cooperation in agriculture, medicine, culture, humanitarian assistance.***

Historical Background

- **Soviet Era Ties:** *Ukraine, as part of the Soviet Union, had significant interactions with India during the Cold War era. India and the Soviet Union shared strong bilateral ties, which indirectly laid the foundation for India-Ukraine relations post-independence.*
- **Post-Soviet Independence:** *After Ukraine gained independence in 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, India quickly recognized Ukraine as a sovereign nation and established diplomatic relations in January 1992.*

Key Areas of Cooperation

Trade and Economic Relations

- **Trade Volume:** *India and Ukraine have maintained a robust trade relationship, with major exports from Ukraine to India including agricultural products (especially sunflower oil), machinery, chemicals, and metals. India exports pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals, and textiles to Ukraine.*

- **Investment Potential:** *There has been interest in expanding investment opportunities, particularly in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and information technology sectors.*

Defense Cooperation

- **Military Equipment and Technology:** *Ukraine has been a significant supplier of military equipment to India, particularly during the 1990s and early 2000s. India has procured various defense technologies, including the modernization of military aircraft and naval vessels.*
- **Joint Ventures:** *Both countries have explored joint ventures in defense manufacturing, with an emphasis on technology transfer and collaborative research.*

Educational and Cultural Exchange

- **Educational Opportunities:** *Ukraine is a popular destination for Indian students pursuing higher education, particularly in medical studies. Ukrainian universities have seen a significant influx of Indian students over the years.*
- **Cultural Ties:** *Cultural exchange programs, including the celebration of Indian festivals and the promotion of Ukrainian culture in India, have strengthened people-to-people connections.*

Diplomatic Relations

- **Multilateral Cooperation:** *India and Ukraine have cooperated in various international forums, including the United Nations. Both countries have supported each other on issues of mutual interest, such as non-proliferation and peacekeeping.*
- **Political Dialogue:** *Regular high-level visits and consultations between the two countries have helped in addressing bilateral issues and expanding cooperation.*

Challenges and Recent Developments

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** *The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia has posed challenges for India-Ukraine relations. India has maintained a balanced approach, advocating for peaceful resolution and dialogue, while also being cautious about its strategic partnership with Russia.*
- **Impact on Trade and Economy:** *The conflict has disrupted trade routes and affected economic cooperation, particularly in sectors like energy and defense.*
- **Diplomatic Balancing Act:** *India's foreign policy has focused on maintaining neutrality and engaging with both Ukraine and Russia, highlighting the importance of sovereignty and territorial integrity while avoiding taking sides in the conflict.*

Strategic Significance

- **Energy Security:** *Ukraine's strategic location as a transit country for energy supplies from Russia to Europe makes it significant in the context of global energy security.*
- **Global Diplomacy:** *India's diplomatic engagement with Ukraine reflects its broader strategy of maintaining balanced relations with countries across different geopolitical blocs.*

Conclusion

- *India-Ukraine relations are characterized by cooperation in trade, defense, education, and diplomacy, with potential for further growth.*
- *However, the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the region present challenges that require careful diplomatic maneuvering.*

PM Jhan Dhan Yojana

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Financial inclusion.

Context:

- *10 years of banking the unbanked: How PM Jan Dhan Yojana changed 53 crore lives.*
- **Celebrating its decade-long impact in 2024,** *the scheme has made remarkable strides in providing basic banking services, enhancing financial literacy, and ensuring that the benefits of economic growth reach even the most marginalized communities.*

Objectives and Features of PMJDY

The PMJDY was built on four pillars: banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded, and serving the underserved. Its key objectives include:

- **Enhancing Financial Inclusion:** *Ensuring access to basic banking services for every household and economically weaker sections.*
- **Empowerment:** *Providing tools like zero-balance accounts, RuPay debit cards, and overdraft facilities to empower the economically weaker sections.*
- **Security and Access:** *Facilitating access to various government schemes and insurance services.*

Key Features

1. **Zero-Balance Accounts:** *Allowing citizens to open savings accounts without requiring a minimum balance.*
2. **RuPay Debit Cards:** *Offering accident insurance of Rs 2 lakh (or Rs 1 lakh for accounts opened before August 28, 2018) and enabling cashless transactions.*
3. **Overdraft Facility:** *Providing an overdraft of up to Rs 10,000 for emergency needs.*
4. **Business Correspondents (BCs):** *Also known as Bank Mitras, these agents extend banking services to remote and underserved areas.*

Milestones and Achievements

- *By August 14, 2024, PMJDY had opened over 53.13 crore bank accounts, **with 29.56 crore accounts belonging to female beneficiaries**, underscoring the scheme's contribution to gender equality in financial access.*
- ***Deposits in these accounts have grown to Rs 2,31,236 crore**, indicating a strong trust in the banking system.*
- ***Additionally, 36.14 crore RuPay debit cards** have been issued, helping millions transition to cashless transactions.*
- *In 2018, the scheme expanded its focus to include "every unbanked adult" rather than just "every household," enhancing its reach and impact on marginalized communities.*

Benefits and Services

PMJDY offers several benefits that improve financial security and inclusion:

- **Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA):** *No minimum balance is required, and account holders can use various banking services, though cash withdrawals are limited to four per month.*
- **Small Account/Chota Khata:** *Accounts valid for 12 months without the need for legal documents, extendable with proof of applying for official documents.*
- **Integration with Government Schemes:** *PMJDY accounts are linked with schemes like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and the Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme.*

Global Recognition and Impact

- *PMJDY has drawn international acclaim from organizations like the World Bank, IMF, and UNDP for its role in reducing poverty and enhancing financial stability.*

- *Countries such as Bangladesh and Kenya have implemented similar financial inclusion models, inspired by PMJDY's success.*

Challenges and Future Directions

- *Despite its success, PMJDY faces challenges like **improving financial literacy**, addressing infrastructure limitations in remote areas, and mitigating fraud.*
- ***Overcoming these challenges** is crucial for the scheme to maintain its effectiveness and continue empowering India's marginalized communities.*
- ***As India marks a decade of PMJDY**, the scheme stands as a cornerstone of the nation's financial inclusion efforts, paving the way for continued economic growth and inclusivity.*

Unified Pension Scheme

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Social security measures.

Context:

- *The Union Cabinet has recently approved the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**, which aims to provide central government employees with an assured pension after retirement.*
- *This new scheme will be **effective from 1st April 2025**, replacing the current National Pension System (NPS) for central government employees, with state governments given the option to adopt the scheme as well.*

Key Provisions of the Unified Pension Scheme:

- **Assured Pension:** *Government employees will receive 50% of their average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months before retirement, provided they have a minimum of 25 years of service. This amount decreases proportionally for shorter service periods, with a minimum of 10 years required.*
- **Assured Minimum Pension:** *Employees retiring after at least 10 years of service are guaranteed a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month.*
- **Assured Family Pension:** *Upon the retiree's death, their immediate family will receive 60% of the pension last drawn.*

- **Inflation Indexation:** Dearness relief will be applied to the assured pension, family pension, and minimum pension, based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers.
- **Lump Sum Payment:** At retirement, employees will receive a lump sum payment equivalent to 1/10th of their monthly emoluments (pay + DA) for every completed six months of service, in addition to gratuity.
- **Employee Choice:** Employees can choose to remain under the NPS, but once opted, the choice cannot be changed.

Differences Between UPS, OPS, and NPS:

- **Pension Calculation:** UPS offers 50% of the average salary plus DA over the last year, whereas OPS offered 50% of the last basic salary plus DA. NPS does not guarantee a fixed pension.
- **Employee Contribution:** Unlike OPS, which required no employee contribution, UPS requires a 10% contribution from the employee, with an 18.5% contribution from the government.
- **Tax Benefits:** The tax benefits under UPS are yet to be clarified, while NPS offers specific tax benefits.
- **Higher Minimum Pension:** UPS guarantees a higher minimum pension of Rs 10,000 compared to OPS.
- **Lump Sum Payments:** UPS provides a lump sum at retirement without reducing the pension, unlike OPS.

Fiscal Implications:

- The introduction of UPS could have significant fiscal impacts due to its resemblance to the **Old Pension Scheme (OPS)**, which had previously strained government finances.
- A **2023 study by the Reserve Bank of India** warned of the potential fiscal burden if states were to revert to OPS, projecting a potential increase in the fiscal burden to 0.9% of GDP annually by 2060.
- The UPS aims to mitigate these risks by balancing the benefits of OPS and the contributory nature of NPS.

Conclusion:

- *The Unified Pension Scheme seeks to strike a balance between ensuring financial security for employees post-retirement and managing the fiscal responsibility of the government.*
- *It combines elements of both OPS (defined benefits) and NPS (contributory scheme) to provide a more secure and predictable pension system while addressing concerns about the fiscal sustainability of the pension framework.*